Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred
Vol. 33, Issue 1
JANUARY 2025

Thought Leader

Great Notion still reigns among region's sires

Country Life Stallions
Top 10 in Maryland for 2024

BY BOTH 2YOS AND ALL RUNNERS EARNINGS

Mosler (War Front)

#1 Maryland Sire of 2 YOs by black-type horses

$2,500 LFSN

Sire of both runner-ups in MD Juvenile Championship filly and colt races. Pictured: 3YO filly Ariel Moon breaking her maiden by daylight at Laurel on 11/8 for owner/breeder Country Life Farm & Fifteen Moons LLC.

Jim McCue

Divining Rod (Tapit)

Dependable source of quality runners

$2,500 LFSN

Pictured: 3 YO Next Girl winning $55,480 Laurel allowance on Dec. 7 to boost her earnings to $159,610, including her win on MD Million Day in the Distaff Starter Handicap on turf.

Jim McCue

Ellen B. Pons (3)

Friesan Fire (A.P. Indy)

G1 Sire with consistent 6-figure earners

$1,000 LFSN

Pictured: Shkhara Fire winning $100,000 MD Million Lassie for owner/breeders Barak Farm & Dino's Thoroughbreds LLC

Jim McCue

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Beginning with 2YOs of 2025, our sires' foals are eligible for 40% higher Breeders' Bonuses

Midlantic May

TWO-YEAR-OLDS IN TRAINING

SACRED WISH
Matriarch S. (G1)

STRAIGHT NO CHASER
2024 Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1)

FULL COUNT FELICIA
E.P. Taylor S. (G1)

MONDAY & TUESDAY, MAY 19 - 20, 2025

Under Tack Show: May 13 - 15 | Timonium, Maryland

ENTRIES CLOSE
FEBRUARY 3, 2025

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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

— Set List —

State of the stallions

Pennsylvania makes the most noise thanks to new arrivals and others shifting to new locations. Great Notion keeps on going in Maryland. Virginia starts to build up a roster. By Joe Clancy. Page 24

Master trainer, rider Jenkins will be missed

Rodney Jenkins made a name for himself in two equine disciplines – championship-level show jumping and racehorse training. By Joe Clancy. Page 36

Trackside: Penn National

Trainers Tim Kreiser and Brandon Kulp slug it out – again – for the track's training championship which came down to the final days of 2024 . By Ali Çetinok. Page 42

Racetrack to foxhunting field an easy shift

Retired racehorses can adapt quickly to the foxhunting field, thanks to a mix of skills they already know and an attitude built for learning new things. By Kristen Kovatch Bentley. Page 48

Steeplechase Times: Mystic Strike earns timber crown

In the final season of his career, timber stalwart Mystic Strike goes out a winner at age 15 for trainer Todd McKenna. By Joe Clancy. Page 54

Steeplechase Times: 24 for 2024

A run through the season that just finished. Record purses drive statistics, trainers Jack Fisher and Leslie Young tie for title, Graham Watters wins third jockeys' crown and plenty more highlights. By Sean Clancy. Page 57

On our cover: Great Notion turns 25 this year, but continues to rule the region's stallion ranks – and is booked full for this season. *Photo by Barrie B. Reightler.*

— Entries —

The Starting Gate 6

Next Chapters 18
Silmaril

From the Editor 22

Broker's Tip 39
A Horseman

— The Paddock —

Maryland newsletter 61

New Jersey newsletter 67

North Carolina newsletter 71

Pennsylvania newsletter 73

South Carolina newsletter 77

Virginia newsletter 79

West Virginia newsletter 81

Steeplechase newsletter 83

— Evening Stables —

Classifieds 85

Looking Back 86

Past Time 88

LAUREL PARK

January Events 2025

LIVE RACING BEGINS JANUARY 17

JANUARY 17

Winter Meet Opening Day

2025 Maryland Racing Calendar Giveaway

JANUARY 18

4 STAKES TOTALING $350,000 IN PURSES

SATURDAY / JANUARY 18	
THE WHAT A SUMMER STAKES *Fillies & Mares – Four Years Old & Upward / 6 Furlongs*	$100,000
THE FIRE PLUG STAKES *Four Year Olds & Upward / 6 and 1/2 Miles*	$100,000
THE JENNINGS STAKES REGISTERED - MD BRED / MD SIRED *Four Year Olds & Upward / 1 Mile*	$75,000
THE GEISHA STAKES REGISTERED - MD BRED / MD SIRED *Fillies & Mares – Four Years Old & Upward / 1 Mile*	$75,000

JANUARY 25

2 STAKES TOTALING $200,000 IN PURSES

SUNDAY / JANUARY 25	
THE XTRA HEAT STAKES *Fillies – Three Years Old / 6 Furlongs*	$100,000
THE SPECTACULAR BID STAKES *Three Year Olds / 7 Furlongs*	$100,000

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MARYLAND-BRED/MARYLAND-SIRED STAKES SCHEDULE

Through April 2025

January 18

$75,000 JENNINGS 4YO & Up, 1 Mile

$75,000 GEISHA 4YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 1 Mile

March 8

$75,000 CONNIVER 4YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 7 Furlongs

$75,000 NOT FOR LOVE 4YO & Up, 6 Furlongs

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Volume 33, Issue 1

321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136
(410) 252-2100 x116
Fax (888) 616-9797
MidAtlanticTB.com
Facebook.com/Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred

Director of publications: Barrie B. Reightler
breightler@marylandthoroughbred.com

Editor: Joe Clancy
editor@marylandthoroughbred.com
410-392-5867

Associate editor: Cindy Deubler
cdeubler@marylandthoroughbred.com

Proofreaders: Ali Çetinok, Maryanna Skowronski, Emily Stakem

Communications manager: Ali Çetinok
acetinok@marylandthoroughbred.com

Contributors:
Sean Clancy sean@marylandthoroughbred.com
Tom Law tom@marylandthoroughbred.com

Circulation & member services: Emily Stakem
emily@marylandthoroughbred.com

National advertising: Ken Ward
Ken@TheWardGroupLLC.com

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Top Fourth-Crop Sire in U.S.

67% winners/runners
Compare to GUN RUNNER's 53%

14.5% stakes horses
GUN RUNNER is at 14%

$101,710 average earnings
2nd to GUN RUNNER, the leading 2024 U.S. 4th-crop stallion (cumulative)

Maryland's TOP Active Leading Sire by A.E./Runner (lifetime)

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$5,000 LF
Breeders' Cup &
Maryland Million

George Adams photo

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Say It Again

"I'm still the same as yesterday."
Jockey Victor Carrasco's stock answer when trainer Rodney Jenkins (who died in December) would call – daily – to check up on him after an injury

"It was like Yellowstone."
Stone Jug Ranch's Darryl Myers, about running a Scottish Highlander cattle farm in Pennsylvania

"He breezed a couple of times and somebody offered me $40,000. I said no. I thought I was going to win the Breeders' Cup."
Owner Ralph Santella, about the first Thoroughbred he ever owned; the $5,000 purchase never raced and is a riding horse now

"Black cats have black kittens."
Co-owner Randy Gullatt, about hoping Warrant's first foals look like their sire

Names of the Month

Compiled by Lexi Danielson

Omar Comin. The now 4-year-old Maryland-bred gelding, bred by Designated Hitters Racing, reached "The Wire" first at Laurel Park Nov. 16.

She'sarollingstone. The Bourbon Courage mare won a claiming race at Laurel Dec. 14. Bred by Anchor and Hope Farm and purchased by the Rosalee Davison Revocable Trust as a yearling in 2019, she is out of Taylor Jagger. Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger has eight children. None are named Taylor.

You're the One. Teresa Beste's homebred 5-year-old mare is by Bandbox out of Flirt Alert. She won an allowance at Penn National in October and was third at Parx in December.

COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Millionaire Muad'dib

West Virginia-bred Muad'dib started 2024 with back-to-back wins in February and March, but lost his next six starts and didn't win again until a Dec. 13 allowance at Charles Town. Trained by Jeff Runco for David Raim, the now 8-year-old Fiber Sonde gelding bred by John McKee became a millionaire and finished 2024 with 17 wins in 29 lifetime starts for $1,016,793 earned.

WARRANT

Constitution–Whisper Number, by First Samurai

Milers make the best sires

The only Constitution at stud in the region and the highest booking stallion in PA for 2024

MARYLAND-SIRED • MARYLAND-BRED
EARN 40% HIGHER
BREEDER BONUSES

GRADED STAKES-WINNING MILLIONAIRE SON OF

CONSTITUTION

Leading sire **CONSTITUTION (TAPIT)** is already sire of top freshman sire **TIZ THE LAW** (from his first crop).

WARRANT earned $1.1 million in three seasons. On the board in 17 of 19 starts, he won from 6 fur. to 1½ miles. His 11 stakes wins or placings at classic distances include G1 Santa Anita H, G2 Brooklyn S, G3 Oklahoma Derby, G3 Louisiana Derby, G3 West Virginia Derby, G3 Prairie Meadow Cornhusker. WARRANT offers the discriminating breeder exceptional bone, size and balance.

$4,500 LFSN

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On verge of Jan. 1 transition, Maryland makes progress

Sounding similar to the staff at a North Pole workshop in mid-December, leaders of the entities tasked with revitalizing Maryland's Thoroughbred industry worked on the final details before a Jan. 1 takeover of day-to-day racing in the state.

Officially, a new non-profit organization called The Maryland Jockey Club will manage racing – consolidated for now at Laurel Park in Laurel and eventually to shift to a reconstructed Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore (in 2027) and a new training center. Hired in September, former Monmouth Park executive Bill Knauf is the new organization's president and general manager. At a Dec. 17 meeting, the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority, the state agency tasked with overseeing the new model for racing, said it was in the final stages of choosing members of MJC's board of directors.

Also at that meeting, MTROA chairman Greg Cross summarized 2024 and pointed to the next steps. All the ingredients were in place for a transition from management by the Stronach Group to the new MJC Jan. 1, Cross said, with much of the MTROA's efforts centering on contracts with the various entities involved to conduct racing in the state. New employee agreements were in place, along with insurance policies, liquor licenses and contracts with off-track-betting facilities, tote companies, Equibase, Maryland Turf Caterers, the Roberts Communications satellite transmission/video company, Triple Crown Productions, and the Jockeys' Guild among others. Anything not signed was in the final stages.

"The Maryland Jockey Club will be up and operational Jan. 1," Cross said at the meeting.

At the close of that meeting's public session, the MTROA board went into a closed session to discuss the options for a training center, budgeted at $110 million to complete. A *Baltimore Sun* article published the next day named the Shamrock Farm property in Woodbine as the training center location, citing an unnamed source. No confirmation was issued by the MTROA. The Rooney family's farm was one of three finalists identified, along with the old Bowie Racetrack property and a property in Aberdeen.

During his remarks at the meeting, Cross summarized the authority's 2024 as being focused on a series of items to handle the transition from private ownership by the Stronach Group to the non-profit group. In January 2024, Cross said the MTROA recommended 10 steps to make the change a reality. He expected all 10 to be checked off by January 2025 and also expected a "seamless" transition for racing under MJC management thanks in part to $10 million in working capital from the state.

The new year will bring a shift to other priorities, goals and objectives, Cross said, identifying a finalized direction for the new Pimlico project, the training center site choice and construction plan, breeder incentives, finding a veterinary partner and advancing the MJC operating structure. Work groups from the MTROA board will work on those and other items.

Public comments from industry representatives at the meeting raised points about the need to get the MJC board of directors seated soon. Cross agreed, but also said more time was needed to finish the review process of proposed directors. A smaller group of MTROA directors solicited names and created a list of recommendations, but the process was paused for additional review of the potential directors.

In other Maryland developments:

The MJC announced a calendar of 120 live racing dates for 2025 (114 at Laurel and six at Pimlico). In December, 25 stakes worth more than $2.6 million were approved for the winter-spring meet. The schedule includes purse increases to key 3-year-old stakes, the Federico Tesio and Weber City Miss. The in-state preps for the Preakness Stakes-G1 and Black-Eyed Susan-G2 will be worth $150,000 and run April 19.

Grades Matter

Equistar Stallions are Grade 1 all the way!

Brody's Cause

Giant's Causeway–Sweet Breanna (Sahm)

Sire of Grade 1 winner **KALYPSO** ($607,638), who won or placed in SIX graded stakes and sold as a broodmare prospect for $2.1 million in 2022. Two-time G1-winning millionaire **BRODY'S CAUSE** is also sire of G3 winner **SITTIN ON GO** ($365,736), **PALUXY** ($273,570) and 16 additional stakes horses. $3,500 LFSN

Smarty Jones

Elusive Quality–I'll Get Along (Smile)

3YO Champion and multiple Grade 1 classic winner himself, **SMARTY JONES** has sired 32 black-type winners, including 3 champions, 25 graded stakes horses, among them G1 winners **BETTER LIFE, SMART D N A, BAMBA Y BAMBA, CENTRALINTELIGENCE**. $3,500 LFSN

Zozos NEW FOR 2025

Munnings–Papa's Forest (Forestry)

Graded stakes-winning millionaire and first-time-out winner with 7 victories in 15 starts. **ZOZOS** won by a total of 20¼ lengths, from 6 fur. to 1 1/16 mi., with **THREE 100+ Beyers** to his credit. He won the Grade 3 Ack Ack S, Hanshin S, Knicks Go Overnight S; placed second in Grade 2 Louisiana Derby and third in Grade 1 Churchill Downs S. $2,500 LFSN

Call Rodney Eckenrode 302-236-3886
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EQUISTAR Training & Breeding Annville, PA

The MJC announced the hiring of Dan Illman as director of communications. Previously a writer, correspondent, analyst and handicapper at *Daily Racing Form*, Illman will lead the organization's media relations department.

Illman began his career at *DRF* in 1998. He became a handicapper in 2000 and was promoted to drf.com handicapping editor in 2007. In 2020, he became *DRF*'s Mid-Atlantic correspondent. Last year, Illman received the Old Hilltop Award for covering Thoroughbred racing with excellence and distinction.

Those updates occurred amidst the announcement of a state-led creation of a festival surrounding the 150th Preakness this year. The $3-million effort, funded by the state and private partners, will include a dozen gatherings across the state, four events in the Baltimore region, all designed to reinvigorate the Preakness and its position as a major event.

Gov. Wes Moore, his wife Dawn Moore, Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott and Orioles owner David Rubenstein participated in the announcement of the festival. A steering committee will include Dawn Moore, Rubenstein, Christian Johansson of Stella May Contracting, Stronach Group chair Belinda Stronach and Thoroughbred owner/breeder Mike Hankin, president and CEO of Brown Advisory.

– Joe Clancy

— Mid-Atlantic-bred Stakes Winners —

November 10 – December 15

Maryland-bred

JAXON TRAVELER, dk.b./br.h., 2018, Munnings—Listen Boy, by After Market. B-Dr. & Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau; O-West Point Thoroughbreds; T-Steve Asmussen. $100,000 Zia Park Sprint, Zia Park, Nov. 26.

TONY ECLIPSE, ch.c., 2022, Not This Time—Tapits Faith, by Tapit. B/O-The Elkstone Group (Stuart Grant); T-Brittany Russell. $100,000 Maryland Juvenile, Laurel, Dec. 7.

New Jersey-bred

BEACH DAZE, b.m., 2019, Blofeld—Ysabell T., by Gators N Bears. B-Lenny & Beth Rera; O-All In Racing Stables & J P S Stable; T-Farrel Mann. $75,000 Cornucopia, Parx, Nov. 27.

Pennsylvania-bred

CAPRICE, dk.b./br.f., 2022, Golden Lad—Grand Folly, by Street Cry (Ire). B-Gregory & Caroline Bentley; O-Runnymoore Racing; T-Cathal Lynch. $100,000 Maryland Juvenile Filly, Laurel, Dec. 7.

CRAB DADDY, dk.b./br.g., 2022, Uncle Lino—So Innocent, by Blame. B/O-Brian Schartz; T-Linda Albert. $100,000 Pennsylvania Nursery, Parx, Nov. 27.

ICONA MAMA, b.f., 2022, Maximus Mischief—Classe Signora, by Bernstein. B-J. Patrick Morell & Tanya Lobsiger; O-DeSales 85; T-Flint Stites. $100,000 Shamrock Rose, Penn National, Nov. 27.

STASSI, b.m., 2020, Warrior's Reward—Darn Quiet, by Real Quiet. B-Sandra Kim Eshleman; O-James Eshleman; T-Bernie Houghton. $50,000 Susquehanna Valley, Penn National, Nov. 27.

TUDOX OPPORTUNITY, b.g., 2020, Hoppertunity—Distinct Sparkle, by With Distinction. B-Roberta Schneider; O-Tudox Farm; T-Elisha Perez. $50,000 Chocolate Town, Penn National, Nov. 27.

West Virginia-bred

IM THE DIRECTOR, gr./ro.g., 2022, Redirect—Cat Thats Grey, by Fiber Sonde. B-John McKee; O-Beau Ridge Farm; T-Cyndy McKee. $50,000 West Virginia Futurity, Charles Town, Nov. 23.

TEACHINTHERELEASE, dk.b./br.g., 2020, Windsor Castle—Romantic Cork, by Denis of Cork. B-John Casey; O-Robert Cole Jr.; T-Stephen Murdock. $75,000 Randy Funkhouser Memorial, Charles Town, Nov. 16.

THE RACING BIZ

The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

Equibase remote charting initiative starts at Charles Town: Equibase is looking to centralize much of its chart calling and creation in Kentucky, and Charles Town will be the first track with no on-site chart caller, starting in the new year, Frank Vespe gets the story.

Bill Knauf – "The tools are here": The new nonprofit Maryland track operator has its work cut out for it, but head Bill Knauf said he believes all the tools are in place for it to succeed, reports Vespe.

MTROA – Pimlico plan may preserve current track layout: Maryland's MTROA may jettison its plan to rotate the Pimlico racing strip, saving the historic track and a substantial amount of money, Vespe reports.

"He made dreams come true" – Galerio gets a soft landing: Galerio won a stakes and nearly $700,000, but it took some work, and the kindness of strangers, to get him the retirement he earned, writes Vespe.

Maryland Juvenile – a mystery solved, decades later: The Maryland Juvenile Stakes is a good race, but it's unlikely to launch the careers of two Classic winners, like the 1982 edition did. Vinnie Perrone recalls the story.

Beau Ridge Farm

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Cyndy McKee 304-995-8930

Cancun

Son of leading sire **INTO MISCHIEF** (Harlan's Holiday). Half to G3 **SO PERFECT** ($548,435) out of Hopeoverexperience (Songandaprayer), a half-sister to G2 **COWTOWN CAT**. Deep family of G2 **BARBERSTOWN** (sire), G3 **DEWAN KEYS** (sire), etc. First foals are yearlings.

Fugitive

Winning son of champion **CANDY RIDE (Arg)**, sire of **GUN RUNNER**. Out of G3 **Elusive Fate** (Elusive Quality). Half to SW **FARSIGHTED**. Solid family of G1 **GEMOLOGIST**, millionaire G1 **SUMMER COLONY**, champion **STILL IN LOVE**, etc. First foals are yearlings.

Redirect

Sire of multiple stakes winners **DIRECT THE CAT** ($251,750) and **IM THE DIRECTOR** ($116,551 at 2, 2024) from just 9 starters. Son of leading sire **SPEIGHTSTOWN** (Gone West). Out of MSW **ALTERNATE** ($550,695). Half to G1 millionaire **HIGHER POWER**, G2 millionaire **ALTERNATION**, and **INTERRUPTED**. Dam a half to Canadian HOY and leading sire **PEAKS AND VALLEYS**.

Spiritus Invictus

Sire of 50% winners from starters in two small crops. Son of leading sire and sire of sires **WAR FRONT**. Out of G1 **CENTRE COURT** (Smart Strike), winner of $961,048. Half to G3 **NAVRATILOVA**. Second dam G2 **LET** ($604,020). From a family of sires: **JOYEUX DANSEUR, NOVERRE, ARAZI, AJDAL, FORMIDABLE**, etc.

Beau Ridge stallions stand for $1,000 LFSN and are registered WV stallions and nominated to WV Breeders Classics

Milestones

Placed

A historic marker honoring Virginia-bred Boston, a member of racing's national Hall of Fame, at Tuckahoe in Henrico County, Va. The marker was installed near his foaling location along the westbound lanes of Route 6, at 10400-10402 Patterson Avenue. The dedication ceremony took place

inside the original horse stable at historic Tuckahoe, the boyhood home of Thomas Jefferson about 35 miles from Colonial Downs racetrack outside Richmond. Boston, a regal chestnut with a blaze, was a grandson of Sir Archy and lived from 1833-50. Bred by Richmond attorney John Wickham, Boston was known for his vicious temperament as well as his speed and endurance. He was trained in the stable of William R. Johnson, known as the "Napoleon of the Turf." Boston won about 40 of 45 known races between 1836 and 1843 on tracks from Georgia to New York, once in front of a crowd of 70,000. He was an inaugural inductee into the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in 1955. He was undefeated in 15 starts as a 4- and 5-year-old. Thirty of his victories were in 4-mile heats and nine were in 3-milers. Thirteen of Boston's starts took place in Virginia including eight in Petersburg – all of which he won. Post-racing, Boston was the leading sire in 1851, 1852 and 1853 and eventually sired 95 winners of 293 races. Among his noted progeny were Lexington and Lecomte. Moderators at the dedication ceremony were Sarah Pace, president of the Henrico County Historical Society, and Josh Pons, equine author and co-owner of Country Life Farm in Maryland. Country Life bred Fulmineo, winner of the inaugural Boston Stakes held at Colonial Downs last summer. Special appreciation for Boston's renewed attention this year – which led to the historical highway marker and inaugural stakes race in his honor – was extended to Becky Francois, sponsor of the highway marker, along with Jennifer Loux of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the Virginia Equine Alliance, Colonial Downs, Virginia Racing Commission, Virginia HBPA and Historic Tuckahoe.

Approved

By the Virginia Racing Commission at its Dec. 3 meeting, a 44-day schedule of racing dates at Colonial Downs racetrack in New Kent. The schedule starts with a three-day Virginia Derby meet March 13-15, followed by the traditional summer meet July 9 through Sept. 13. The $500,000 Virginia Derby, a points race on the Road to the Kentucky Derby, will transition to the dirt and be held March 15, anchoring a three-day spring meet which will also include the $250,000 Virginia Oaks, a Kentucky Oaks points race. The winning horse in each race will receive 50 points to the Kentucky Derby-G1 presented by Woodford Reserve or the Longines Kentucky Oaks-G1, respectively. The second-through fifth-place finishers will earn 25-15-10-5 points on a sliding scale. Post times for racing during the three-day March meet will be at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, March 13 and Friday, March 14. The Virginia Derby Day card Saturday, March 15 will kick off at noon. The summer schedule expands to 41 days for 2025 with racing four days per week, Wednesday through Saturday. Post time will be 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday with twilight racing offered every Friday with a 4 p.m. post time. Racing also will be offered on Labor Day Sept. 1. The Colonial Downs Festival of Racing and its three graded stakes races is slated for Saturday, Aug. 9 and will have a special noon post time. Racing also will start at noon Sept. 6 for a stakes-laden card. "We're excited to bring Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks qualifying races to Virginia for the first time in 2025," senior director of operations Frank Hopf said. "We look forward

TRUE NICKS ○ *check daily updates on stallionregister.com*

ENTICED

Medaglia d'Oro – It's Tricky, by Mineshaft

TIED WITH PA LEADERS BY NUMBER OF STAKES WINNERS

A Leading Second Crop Sire in North America
#1 in Mid-Atlantic Region
Proudly Standing in Pennsylvania

BY THE SIRE OF 75 GSW
MEDAGLIA D'ORO,
ENTICED is his Leading Son
Standing in Pennsylvania

Graded Stakes Pedigree,
Graded Stakes Winner,
Graded Stakes Producer

53 Winners in first two crops, including **Graded SW VISUALLY** winner of Santa Anita's Senorita S.- **G3; SHIMMERING ALLURE** 1st Tempted S., 2nd **Grade 2** Demoiselle S. at 2, Won Panthers S., 3rd Busanda S., at 3, earning $303,795; **UNDER THE PALMS** ($206,675) won $150,000 Cardinal H.; **Tambo** ($213,949) 3rd **Grade 3** Santa Ynez S.; **Inveigled** 2nd James F. Lewis III S. at 2, 2nd Private Terms S., etc. at 3; 9-length MdSpWt winner at 2, 2024 TOWNER TOO; etc.

MULTIPLE GRADED SW OUT OF 3X GRADE 1 WINNING MILLIONAIRE DAM IT'S TRICKY

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Registered Pennsylvania Stallion

Milestones

to an outstanding 2025 season with participation from horsemen not only from Virginia but also from throughout the Mid-Atlantic as we expand our summer dates."

Named

By the city of Aiken (South Carolina) Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department as its 2024 Aiken-trained Horse of the Year, Maryland-bred Post Time. The Hillwood Stable runner won the 2024 Carter Handicap-G2 and General George Stakes-G3 plus the Jennings Stakes and Polynesian Stakes as part of a nine-start season that finished with $975,000 earned. In addition to his four wins, Post Time

ECLIPSE SPORTSWIRE

placed in three Grade 1 stakes (the Metropolitan Handicap, Whitney and Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile), the Grade 2 Cigar Mile and the Grade 3 Westchester. Bred by Tom, Chris and Brooke Bowman and Milton Higgins III, Post Time was purchased by the Aiken-based Cary Frommer for $85,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale in 2021. The colt learned his early lessons at the Aiken Training Track, sold to Ellen Charles of Hillwood, and was sent to trainer Brittany Russell. Created in 2002, the Aiken-trained Horse of the Year award honors a local Thoroughbred for an excellent racing season. Nominees must have trained in Aiken County and won at least one graded stakes during the year or exceeded $500,000 in career earnings. The Hall of Fame Advisory Board approves the winner. An induction ceremony will be held March 16 at 1:30 pm at the Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame. An exhibit about Post Time will be on display. The public is invited to attend. For more, see aikenracinghalloffame.com. Past winners include Congaree (2002), Wando (2003), Limehouse (2005), Bob and John (2006), Country Star (2007), Midshipman (2008), Quality Road (2009 and 2010), It's Tricky (2011), Alpha (2012) Palace Malice (2013 and 2014), Curalina (2015 and 2016), Dickinson (2017), Still Having Fun (2018), Concrete Rose (2019), Madone (2021) and Private Creed (2022 and 2023).

Honored

At a November retirement party at Laurel Park, Maryland Racing Commission executive director Mike Hopkins, for 40 years of service to the Maryland racing community. Hopkins joined the commission staff as deputy director before being appointed executive director in 2002. At the time of his appointment, James Fielder,

JERRY DZIERWINSKI

secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, said: "Mike understands the racing industry from the farms to the tracks. It is rare to find someone with his capacities." Before working with the commission, Hopkins was a stable superintendent at Delaware Park and Bowie in the early 1980s, and worked in the racing office and as the paddock identifier. He grew up on his family's Thoroughbred breeding farm, Elberton Hill, in Darlington, Md. Hopkins has been on the board of the Association of Racing Commissioners International and was named chair in 2018. He received the ARCI's Len Foote Award in 2017 in recognition of exemplary service and contribution to racing integrity by a commission executive director as chosen by his or her peers, and the Maryland Horse Industry Board's Touch of Class Award in 2018.

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Milestones

Approved

By the West Virginia Racing Commission, a 160-day calendar of live racing for Charles Town in 2025. In addition, the track announced a 5-percent overnight purse increase that will take effect on opening night, January 2. Charles Town's live racing calendar calls for a Wednesday through Saturday schedule in January, February, November and December, with racing on Thursday, Friday and Saturday the remainder of the year. Post time for all but one day is 7 p.m. Charles Town Classic and Oaks day, Friday, Aug. 22, will have its customary early post time of 5 p.m. The full stakes program will be submitted to the commission at a later date.

Downgraded

Three regional stakes for 2025 by the American Graded Stakes Committee in a Dec. 18 announcement. Delaware Park's Delaware Handicap moves to Grade 3 from its Grade 2 status in 2024. Laurel Park's Barbara Fritchie and General George were downgraded to listed from Grade 3, as was Monmouth Park's Monmouth Stakes, the West Virginia Governor's Stakes at Mountaineer Park and the Chick Lang Stakes at Pimlico. Several other races in the region shifted statuses to and from listed. The committee reviewed 957 U.S. stakes races with a purse of at least $75,000, and assigned graded status to 415. The figure is 14 fewer than were graded in 2024, and listed status to 210 races. Four graded races were upgraded; one new Grade 1 and three new Grade 2 races were named; nine new Grade 3 races were identified. Twelve new listed races and one new listed-restricted race were upgraded from non-listed black type status. See toba.org/graded-stakes for more.

Go Figure

14 Jockeys who rode 2024 timber champion Mystic Strike over fences in his career (rules races and point-to-points) – Annie Yeager, Mark Beecher, Bethany Baumgardner, Tom Garner, Eddie Keating, Gerard Galligan, Chris Gracie, Skylar McKenna, Teddy Davies, Eric Poretz, Elizabeth Scully, Chloe Hannum, Freddie Tett and Andrew Burke-Ott.

9 Wins at Charles Town (in as many starts) in 2024 for Gran Andrews through Dec. 13. The now 6-year-old Florida-bred, trained by Anthony Farrior for Ultra Championship Racing, won a starter allowance Dec. 7. The son of Jess's Dream lost all four starts away from the West Virginia track – at Mahoning Valley (twice), Timonium and Thistledown.

8 E's in jockey Victor Carrasco's reply text to MAT editor Joe Clancy about an interview request in December. It started, "Joeeeeeeee..."

5 Wins at Penn National for Tilted Tiara in 2024. The South Carolina-bred daughter of Done Talking won three there (plus one at Charles Town) for trainer Tim Kreiser plus one for trainer Brandon Kulp and another for Bruce Kravets. Kreiser and Kulp were battling for the track's training title late in the year (see page 42).

5 Horses to win three Pennsylvania Hunt Cup timber stakes (in 89 runnings). In addition to the recently retired Mystic Strike (2019-20, 2022), the group includes Dosdi (1976-77, 1979), Jacko (1971-73), Henchman (1940-42) and Coq Bruyere (1937-39).

1 Mid-Atlantic stallion farm manager who conducted an interview for this magazine from a Dublin pub in December.

62 Blofeld foals turning 2 years old this year. The Maryland sire has never had more than 30 foals in a crop.

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2025 STALLIONS:

— Next Chapters —

BY MAGGIE KIMMITT

Silmaril

MAGGIE KIMMITT

Nicole Martin extended a greeting as she slid open the heavy door of the main barn at St. Omer's Farm in Forest Hill, Md.

"So you've come to see The Queen," she smiled. "This is her son Beren," she said, pointing out the bay horse in the first stall on the left. "He's getting ready to go to stud."

A few doors down on the right, "That's her grandson, Star Man Bob."

With that, Emily Shiloh led a dark bay mare out of the stall across from the 2-year-old.

"And this," Martin said, "is Silmaril."

Silmaril understood the assignment. Ears pricked and head high, she paused and posed, allowing a visitor to fully appreciate her. With dapples shining through an incoming winter coat, she was the picture of robust health.

Still a specimen, she turned 24 this month. While respectful of Shiloh at the end of the shank, Silmaril crackled with controlled exuberance as she walked out of the barn to join owner Sue Quick for photos.

Bred by Quick's late husband Stephen and partner Christopher Feifarek, Silmaril has always called St. Omer's home. Stephen Quick purchased the 120-acre former dairy

and apple orchard in 1976, growing it into one of Maryland's foremost Thoroughbred nurseries.

As they did with the property, the Quicks developed and nurtured Silmaril's family.

"We had her dam and grandddam," Sue Quick said. "It started out in 1978, we bought a mare [First Landing's daughter Pilgrim's Pride] at a Fasig-Tipton sale. My husband wanted to breed her to Northern Dancer. He didn't know anything about breeding. So he wanted to find a horse bred like Northern Dancer, and North Sea was. So he bred her to him."

The resulting foal, Kattegat's Pride, won 19 races and earned $511,812. Kattegat's Pride won seven in a row from Oct. 12, 1982 to Feb. 19, 1983, including the Silver Ice and Alma North Stakes and the What a Summer, Anne Arundel and Conniver Handicaps. Her biggest of 10 stakes wins came in the 1984 Gallorette Handicap-G3 at Pimlico.

As a broodmare, Kattegat's Pride produced four foals, three winners. Her only daughter was her second foal, by 1985 Kentucky Derby-G1 winner and Horse of the Year Spend a Buck. Named Kattebuck, the filly won just one race – a maiden special at Delaware Park in 1992.

The Quicks were great supporters of the Maryland breeding industry, preferring to go to local stallions. All nine of her foals conceived in Maryland. In 2000, Kattebuck went to Diamond, a stakes-winning son of Mr. Prospector standing at Northview Stallion Station in Chesapeake City.

On March 31, 2001, Kattebuck foaled a dark bay filly eventually named Silmaril for one of the three fictional brilliant jewels in author J.R.R. Tolkien's books. The horse didn't live up to her name, at first. As a young horse, she was completely nondescript.

"You'd never have picked her out," she said. "But [trainer] Chris Grove knew as soon as she got to him."

Grove still remembers.

"She just had that look in her eye," he said. "You could look at her and you just knew."

The day the filly arrived, Grove called Susan Quick.

"Hey, she's here, she's in her stall, she's safe and she's good to go," he said. "And I can tell you right now, she's a racehorse."

From that day, Silmaril occupied Stall 18 at Grove's Bowie barn.

"She never left that one," Grove said. "When she went home to the farm and would come back in, whoever was in Stall 18 had to move."

Silmaril's career lit up the Mid-Atlantic from her debut as a 2-year-old at Laurel Park Oct. 16, 2003 until her final outing – and win – in the What a Summer Stakes at the same track Jan. 12, 2008.

> "She still goes frantic over peppermint wrappers. I never taught her that as a baby; she learned that at the racetrack."
>
> *– Owner/breeder Sue Quick about 24-year-old Silmaril*

Grove credited the mare's versatility and heart as major factors in her longevity and success. She traveled to eight racetracks and won races from 5½ furlongs to 1⅛ miles. Like her granddam, she strung together win streaks. As a 3-year-old in 2004, she won four consecutive starts from Feb. 15 to Oct. 9, beginning with the Jameela Stakes at Laurel and culminating with the Maryland Million Oaks at Pimlico. She capped that season with a score in Pimlico's Geisha Handicap.

In 2005 Silmaril achieved what Quick and Grove consider her – and their – greatest accomplishment. On a sloppy track on Black-Eyed Susan Day, Silmaril conquered champion and future Hall of Famer Ashado in the Pimlico Breeders' Cup Distaff-G3.

"Leading up to the race with Ashado," Grove said, "Silmaril was training so well that I didn't think there was a horse in the country that could beat her."

A week before the race, jockey Ryan Fogelsonger and Silmaril returned to the barn and the trainer deadpanned, "Ashado who?"

He told everybody his filly was ready to go. He got mostly scoffs.

"Yeah, OK," they said. "All right. . ."

Grove remembers Ashado's trainer Todd Pletcher being relaxed and jovial in the paddock as he saddled the favorite. Grove and Susan Quick stood together.

"He doesn't know he's getting ready to get beat," Grove told the owner.

"Chris," Susan replied, "you know you're crazy."

Bet down to 3-10, Ashado led to the stretch but couldn't hold off Silmaril's late push. She won by three-quarters of a length.

MAGGIE KIMMITT

Sue Quick has a chat with Silmaril, who excelled on the track and in the breeding shed.

Silmaril finished 2005 as the Maryland-bred champion older female and went on to reward her connections with plenty of highwater marks afterward. Another Maryland Million victory came in 2006 in the Distaff. In 2007 she won Delaware Park's Endine Handicap-G3.

A trip to Belmont Park that year provided Grove with an unforgettable encounter. There for the First Flight Handicap-G2, he was headed to the track from the paddock after saddling Silmaril when Hall of Fame trainer Allen Jerkens stopped him and shook his hand.

"You've done a great job with this Maryland-bred," Jerkens said. "Congratulations."

Silmaril finished fourth but Grove, whose father Phil rode in the Mid-Atlantic for decades, felt like a winner.

"I grew up reading the *Racing Form*," he said. "I was the only kid in kindergarten who knew how to read, and that was from going to the track, so I knew who he was when I was a kid."

Sue Quick recalled Silmaril's summer breaks on the farm. All racehorse, she preferred the racetrack but put up with farm life for a month or so.

"My husband would go up and turn her out while it was still dark before the employees got here," Sue said. "But as soon as that sun was up and those flies were out, she was done. She was always a lady, except coming back in from her gallops at the track every morning. She would buck and squeal and dump her rider. Chris would have to meet her at the gap to walk her back to the barn."

Grove backed up the memory.

"Every day she would walk out to the track with her head down; it was like you were dragging her out there," he said. "She'd gallop 2 miles and would come off the track on her toes. One time I was walking her back and she jumped up and cow-kicked me square in the thigh. She was just playing. I had to call somebody to come get her because I couldn't walk."

Silmaril made just one start as a 7-year-old in 2008, a second consecutive score in Laurel Park's What a Summer. She won the January race by 2 lengths and headed to retirement. Her resume still holds up. Thirty-six starts, 16 wins, 12 in stakes company, seven seconds, three thirds and earnings of $1,032,973.

As a broodmare, Silmaril produced nine foals, eight to race, six winners. All were bred and campaigned by St. Omer's, most in partnership with Feifarek. Her best, Beren, enters stud in 2025 at Wyn Oaks Farm owned by Sue Quick's son Chip Wheeler and his wife Barbara in Delta, Pa. Winner of the 2022 Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash, Beren won 12 of 35 starts and earned $944,890. He will stand alongside his sire, millionaire and multiple graded stakes winner Weigelia.

Silmaril is pensioned at St. Omer's and doted on daily by Sue Quick and the staff.

"She still goes frantic over peppermint wrappers," Sue said. "I never taught her that as a baby; she learned that at the racetrack. We still have maybe 30 horses here. And she's happy running her little herd. But it's been a fun game." ■

SWEETONTHELADIES

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At 3: 2nd Millions Sprint Preview S., won Crystal River H. defeating millionaire Extravagant Kid in a swift :57.40
At 4: 2nd Grade 3 $250,000 Smile Sprint S., Grade 3 Gulfstream Park Sprint S. defeating GSW MR. JORDAN, 3rd Grade 1 $350,000 Alfred G. Vanderbilt H. at Saratoga, Grade 3 $250,000, Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash S., $100,000 Sunshine Millions Sprint S.
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— From the editor —

BY JOE CLANCY

Putting hopes, dreams into 2025

Happy New Year. In the monthly magazine world, we finished this before the old year ended, so don't expect a tidy, neat bow on 2024 anywhere in these pages. Like always, the year in racing went in every direction at once, seemed to last forever and somehow sped past in a hurry.

Anybody keep up with the news? We tried, but mostly we race into 2025 with more hopes and dreams than facts and understanding.

Here's hoping: Maryland gets itself sorted out. The state turned a page Jan. 1 with the launch of the new Maryland Jockey Club. The non-profit was formed in 2024 to manage racing under a new blueprint with a rebuilt Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore and a built-from-scratch training center. The MJC will be overseen by the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority, another new entity created by the state in 2023. It's all bigger business than I understand, but they better get it right, and also better get to work. Anybody want to make predictions on what all this looks like in January 2028?

Here's dreaming: Maryland does get it right, the Preakness Stakes returns to its former glory as a tentpole event for the state and for racing; the training center gets built in the right location for everybody and turns into the model for the lives of racehorses with varied training surfaces, therapies, turnout space, veterinary care and a research/educational component. Oh, and all of that solidifies – really solidifies – the state's breeding businesses.

Here's hoping: Great Notion soldiers on. Seeing the now 25-year-old at Northview Stallion Station's open house in December was like getting a dose of optimism. He was the region's leading sire again, hopefully topped $6 million in 2024 progeny earnings and was booked full for 2025.

Here's dreaming: A son or daughter wins a Grade 1 in 2025 and whenever his stud career ends, he lives a long retirement.

Here's hoping: The flock of Pennsylvania stallions make it work. Newcomers Zozos, Enticed and Tyson form a nucleus around which a state breeding program can build.

Here's dreaming: Their 2-year-olds come out running in 2028.

Here's hoping: Blofeld's big crop foaled in 2023 makes an impact. The Maryland stallion found success with a small

pool of horses from his first four seasons at stud. Everything changed when 86 mares went to the pride of Murmur Farm in 2022. Those foals turn 2 this year.

Here's dreaming: That crop includes some runners, and Murmur declines offers to move Blofeld to Kentucky.

Here's hoping: Post Time enjoys his rest. No regional-bred runner made more noise than Hillwood Stable's 4-year-old, who placed in three Grade 1 stakes and earned $975,000 last year. He also won four times in nine starts and had people searching his dam Vielsalm's name. It's a town in Belgium that hosts an iconic cycling race.

Here's dreaming: Post Time figures out how to stay with the Grade 1 peloton early so he can utilize his late charge from a stalking spot rather than the back of the pack.

Here's hoping: Jump racing continues to find ways to soar. Horses raced for a record $6,979,000 in purses last year, most of it raised without the help of wagering takeout or contributions from alternative gaming.

Here's dreaming: The Virginia and International Gold Cup meets get to run at Great Meadow again. North Carolina's Queen's Cup and Tryon/Block House meets return to the calendar. Mother Nature cooperates and the turf is good all year. And Maryland's Fair Hill Races come back. Oh, and an American-bred horse travels to race in England or Ireland.

Here's hoping: The region's Thoroughbred incentive programs stay liquid and remain part of their states' budgets. Never stop selling the agriculture, open space and jobs part of the equation to legislators, no matter where you live.

Here's dreaming: Somebody figures out how to link the state-by-state incentive programs in the region. Virginia rewarded its Thoroughbred owners/breeders/developers with a bonus program that crosses state lines several years ago and it's paying off. Pick two states to link, do the math, pay bonuses in both states, imagine the possibilities.

Here's hoping: The downward trend of racing fatalities continues. At the University of Arizona's global racing symposium in December, Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority CEO Lisa Lazarus said the fatality rate over the 12 months ending Dec. 10 was .88 horses per 1,000 starts – the lowest figure ever recorded and a 28.5 percent decline over the previous 12 months.

Here's dreaming: HISA and its critics find common ground and continue to work on that number, and other issues facing the sport.

Here's hoping: The Thoroughbred business in 2025 is so good that its success filters out to all aspects of the sport – from major racetracks to fair circuits, from new- and old-money owners to hotwalkers living on the backside, from math-wizard handicappers to $2 bettors, from million-dollar yearlings to looking-for-a-home retirees, from super trainers with 200 horses on the set list to just-making-it horsemen hoping the stable star doesn't get claimed.

Here's dreaming: The horses all run fast, jump high and come home safe. ■

Work in Progress

PENNSYLVANIA NEWCOMERS, CHANGES LEAD REGION'S 2025 STALLION MARKET

By Joe Clancy

What do the owner of a structural steel company and a sales director for an international software company have in common?

New Pennsylvania stallions.

If you survived the boomerang effect of that Q&A, ponder the decisions of Darryl Myers (steel-company entrepreneur) and Ralph Santella (software sales guy) to dive into the breeding business as the owners of Tyson and Enticed, respectively. The horses will stand at farms in Pennsylvania this year – Tyson at Myers' Stone Jug Ranch in Dillsburg and Enticed at Rich Miller's Mountain Springs Farm in Palmyra – with the same goal of making an impact in the Mid-Atlantic's stallion market.

As usual, easier said than done.

As the calendar turned to 2025, stallion farms in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey and West Virginia were eyeing decisions by breeders and the start of the season a month into the future. In terms of news and/or changes, the Keystone State led the way as stallions new and old shuffled in a variety of directions. Nobody made more impact than Myers and Santella.

Bred and raced by Godolphin, **Enticed** brings a track record from four seasons as a stallion at Darley in Kentucky. His first crop included 23 winners in 2023 and he was ranked seventh nationally among second-crop sires in 2024 while pushing the numbers up to 44 winners, three stakes winners, a graded stakes winner and progeny earnings of $3.1 million through Dec. 10. Santella operates Ultra Championship Racing, a winner of 56 races alone or in partnership in 2024 (through Dec. 10), and in the process has acquired a few broodmares and a small farm near Penn National Race Course. He sent two mares to Pennsylvania sires last year, and one to Kentucky, and pondered the business model.

He reached out to some partners, talked it over and went through all the, "It could pay off over time," arguments. At least a few of the partners were in. Then Santella put on his salesman hat.

"I was cold-calling farms," he said. "I'm in sales, I'm OK with making cold calls. How many phone calls could these farms get about something like this?"

He tried to buy Kentucky stallions Catholic Boy (who ended up in California) and World of Trouble (sold to Brazil), talked strategy with Hunter Houlihan at Taylor Made Farm and called Darley about Enticed. The son of Medaglia d'Oro won a Grade 2 and placed in a Grade 1 as a 2-year-old and won a Grade 3 as a 3-year-old with trainer Kiaran McLaughlin. The dark bay attracted 148 mares his first year and at least 73 each year since, but he was getting pressure from newcomers in an ocean-deep stallion barn that includes Nyquist, Medaglia d'Oro, Cody's Wish, Essential Quality, Hard Spun, Street Sense and others.

"Once we talked and said we were interested, their number was reasonable, and I think I built a good relationship with them," Santella said. "They have new horses coming in all the time and thought I had a good opportunity to send a stallion to Pennsylvania. They wouldn't sell me the horse until I aligned the farm. That took longer than buying the horse, but I actually appreciated that."

Enticed joins a growing stallion operation at Mountain Springs, which includes Alejandro, Beverly Park, Eastwood,

BARRIE B REIGHTLER

Rich Miller leads new Pennsylvania stallion Enticed at Mountain Springs Farm.

"There's always something to do now. I do a lot of the stuff with the horses myself. I'm sort of hands-on, but that's what I like to do. I'm excited about the year. Retirement is on hold."

– Rich Miller, whose stallion list is growing at Mountain Springs Farm

EMMA STEINKAMP

Farm-owned Tight Ten romps at Rich Miller's Mountain Springs.

Tight Ten, Uncle Benny, Uptowncharlybrown and Well Spelled on the roster. In mid-December, Miller was completing a new stallion barn and planning his farm's first stallion show (Jan. 11). It's heady stuff for a lifelong horseman who sold the original Mountain Springs Stables and Arena – host to rodeos, concerts, demolition derbies and monster truck competitions – in Shartlesville in 2019. Racehorses were part of the equation going back to the 1970s at Pocono Downs, but Miller has never been this deep into the business.

The new Mountain Springs used to be Land of Believe Farm and includes two main barns in addition to the new stallion barn. Lynn and Lola Cash, whose Built Wright Stables owns Alejandro and Beverly Park, will send mares to board. Uptowncharlybrown Stud, owner of Uptowncharlybrown and Eastwood, will as well. Miller's mares add to the population and will keep Mountain Springs busy all season. The farm added staff and will get help with some of the management from the new stallion clients and their operations.

"I was supposed to be semi-retired, but I guess I can't sit," said Miller. "There's always something to do now. I do a lot of the stuff with the horses myself. I'm sort of hands-on, but that's what I like to do. I'm excited about the year. Retirement is on hold.

"If you want to breed here in Pennsylvania, Enticed has been pretty hot as a sire and his foals look like they can run. He's a really nice, well-balanced horse. Everybody that has seen him seems to be excited about him. I think he's going to do all right in Pennsylvania."

Santella credited Miller, Rodney Eckenrode from Equistar Training and Breeding, Paul O'Loughlin at Northview Stallion Station and others with helping answer questions. Santella grew up in Brooklyn and went to Belmont Park, Aqueduct Racetrack, and later Penn National, with his father. The introduction stuck as Santella stayed a fan, started a racing partnership and now balances horses with his full-time job for Accruent, a leading provider of workplace and asset-management software.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, Santella traveled frequently. Now, he can do much of his sales work via online meetings, phone calls and other communication methods. The change allowed him to purchase a farm, build up Ultra Championship (which has horses with Anthony Farrior, Elisha Perez, Anthony Aguirre and other trainers) and work on a breeding program.

Enticed fits the next step. He is out of It's Tricky, a Grade 1 winner and millionaire; his second dam is Grade 3 winner Catboat. The family includes hard-hitting multiple track record-setting Maryland-bred Northern Wolf. Fourth dam, stakes winner Glenorthern, was bred in Pennsylvania by Linnie Scott and her dam Glenora was bred in Virginia by Theodora Randolph. Enticed will stand for $5,000 live foal.

If nothing else, he and the other Thoroughbreds in Santella's world are a welcome break from corporate America.

"Saturdays and Sundays I visit the horses," Santella said. "Enticed is already spoiled. He's a big, friendly, gorgeous horse. He's a treat to be around. I absolutely love the horses.

BARRIE B. REIGHTLER

ALIX COLEMAN

Well Spelled (left) has stood at Mountain Springs since the 2022 season, and this year is offered free to Pennsylvania-foaling mares. Uptowncharlybrown moves from Blackstone Farm for the 2025 season, along with Eastwood.

The stress relief I find hanging out with the horses is second to none – OK, maybe my bulldog."

Santella knows the pitfalls of the stallion business, but also looks toward yet another expansion of a model that has grown from racehorses to broodmares, young horses and now a stallion.

"There aren't many places to keep mares anymore and that's a big issue," he said. "For the folks who want to have a broodmare or two, there are a limited amount of farms to send your mare to and most of those are full. I'd like to see that improve, but if this goes well maybe the next step is a bigger farm."

• • •

Darryl Myers, who spent $175,000 to acquire Canadian champion **Tyson** at Keeneland in November, already owns two farms but sees a few steps to take before filling the stalls with outside mares. His entry into stallion ownership somewhat mirrors that of Santella.

"I wanted something that would be good in Pennsylvania to breed my own horses to if nothing else," he said in December. "I spend so much money sending horses to Kentucky every year. That's a big cost – stud fees, transportation and everything else – and I wanted to try to keep it in Pennsylvania and try to race more in Pennsylvania."

Enter Tyson, a son of Tapit whose racing career included four wins in 10 starts over three seasons. As a 4-year-old in 2023, he earned the Canadian older male championship by taking the Seagram Cup-G2 and Dominion Day Stakes-G3 at Woodbine. In addition, the Kentucky-bred finished third behind Bright Future and Proxy in the Jockey Club Gold Cup-G1 at Saratoga. When the gray horse made the catalog at Keeneland, Myers and bloodstock agent Ed Price went to work.

"We ran this horse by quite a few people before we purchased him," Myers said. "We were looking at a couple others [Florida stallion Rogueish for one], but I think in the end Tyson was the best choice for us."

As a son of leading sire Tapit, whose sons at stud include Essential Quality, Flightline, Frosted, Tonalist and others, Tyson will get attention from breeders. The 6-year-old's female family adds further power. His dam Honouring won once in two starts and also produced Whitewalker, a winning full-brother to Tyson. Second dam Teeming produced six other winners including Grade 1 winner Streaming and Modeling, the dam of champion Arcangelo. Third dam Better Than Honour packs the biggest punch. The Broodmare of the Year produced champion Rags to Riches, Breeders' Cup Marathon winner Man of Iron, Grade 2 winner Casino Drive and Belmont Stakes-G1 winner Jazil among others.

"He's got all the pieces that fit together," said Price. "He's by a very good sire, from a very good female family and he was definitely a runner. He's starting with all the right credentials anyway."

Tyson will stand at Myers' Stone Jug Ranch in Dillsburg. Myers and his wife Jill live in Florida mainly, but the

Pennsylvania native has bred and owned horses in the state for several years. They bought the original Stone Jug Ranch property in 2018 and raised Scottish Highland cattle – and horses – restoring an 1800s stone barn and adding paddocks, sheds, round pens and everything else a Thoroughbred operation needs.

The cattle business got smaller (there are still a few) and the horse business grew enough to where Myers purchased a second farm nearby in June. The owner and founder of a structural steel company in Dillsburg, Myers built a breeding shed, stallion stalls, paddocks and more. Some of the property is still in crops, but Myers expects that to be pasture in time and also sees room for expansion in terms of stallions, boarding mares and foaling for clients.

For now, it's about the horse. Tyson spent a month with Sally Thomas in Kentucky, but arrived at the new farm in early December.

"He walked off the trailer like a pro and seems happy to be here," Myers said a few days after Tyson arrived. "He was proud and walked in like he belonged. He's a very smart horse for sure and is phenomenal looking. People keep asking me why I don't put him back on the racetrack, but he proved himself."

Trained mainly by Josie Carroll in Canada, Tyson will stand for $3,500 live foal, with a discount for multiple bookings and special consideration for Pennsylvania-foaling mares and stakes-producing mares.

Myers grew up going to the races at Penn National, said he won a handicapping contest as a 14-year-old and may or may not have helped his high-school teachers handicap races. After jobs as a paper boy and a cook at Howard Johnson's, he became a welder and started a business out of his mother's garage. Now, Myers Steel Works employs 25 people and takes on projects big and small for retail stores, churches, warehouses, office buildings, hotels and more.

"We've built a lot of stuff in our time, and I've been an entrepreneur all my life," said Myers. "Stallions are a little bit new for me, but I'm good with mares and other horses and we've hired some good people now. The program is good in Pennsylvania and it's almost hard to be in it with mares and not be in the stallion side of it too."

• • •

Rodney Eckenrode watched the racing at Aqueduct in early December and smiled as horses by Munnings – Poster in the Remsen-G2 and Muhimma in the Demoiselle-G2 – swept the two season-ending juvenile stakes. Out in the barn at Eckenrode's Equistar Training and Breeding in Annville, Pa., **Zozos** – a son of Munnings – got ready for his first season at stud.

BARRIE B. REIGHTLER

Farm manager Morgan Shenk ensures Tyson adjusts to his new life at Pennsylvania's Stone Jug Ranch.

The dark bay won seven races and earned $1,011,463 over three seasons. He won three times as a 3-year-old and finished second to champion Epicenter in the Louisiana Derby-G2. At 4, Zozos won the Ack Ack-G3, Hanshin and Knicks

Go stakes all at a mile. His 2024 season ended after three starts, but he finished third in the Churchill Downs-G1 on Kentucky Derby Day. Eckenrode wasn't necessarily planning to add a stallion for 2025 until Zozos crossed the radar screen.

"Jamie LaMonica told me about him, and I asked what it would take to buy him; I was not going to drive down there if I couldn't afford him," Eckenrode said. "He got back to me, it turned out I might be able to afford him and I went to look at him. I loved him and feel really good about him."

An October open house for breeders drew similar opinions, and those end-of-season results can only help. Four other Munnings juveniles – Amor Patriae, Art Fair, Delray and

"He was a sprinting-type miler. If you're going to improve regional mares, you need to make them faster. I don't think it's as easy to get it done adding distance. I think this horse will make a contribution to that."

– Rodney Eckenrode, about new stallion Zozos

COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Zozos joins the roster at Equistar in Pennsylvania.

Ramify – won maiden races in the first half of December. For more, Eckenrode provided a pedigree lecture.

"He's a total outcross to A.P. Indy," Eckenrode said. "Americans are so darn trendy. They all want to go to the same horse and before we know it our gene pool is going to be a little puddle. And I think we're going to see Munnings become a sire of sires."

And then turned the page to conformation/running style.

"He was a sprinting-type miler," Eckenrode said of Zozos, who raced for trainer Brad Cox. "If you're going to improve regional mares, you need to make them faster. I don't think it's as easy to get it done adding distance. I think this horse will make a contribution to that.

"My clients are excited and happy about it and that's where I'm at. I want to have a nice produce for my clients and myself."

Priced at $2,500, Zozos joins Smarty Jones, who turned 24 this month and bred 19 mares in 2024, and Brody's Cause, who bred 32.

• • •

A second-year stallion operation near Gettysburg, Pa., Cabin Creek Farm will stand **Il Villano, Imposing, Magic Spoon, Red Vine** and **Somelikeithotbrown** this year. Maria Vorhauer, who managed the Dana Point Farm breeding farm near Allentown in the mid-2000s, steers the ship.

Il Villano raced in the region for Chuck Russo and trainer Susan Crowell, winning five times including the Chick Lang at Pimlico and Dave's Friend at Laurel. From 20 foals over seven crops, he has sired 16 runners and 11 winners. Imposing stands his first season. He was unraced, but is a son of leading sire Gun Runner and champion Untapable. Fellow rookie stallion Magic Spoon won his only two starts, one the Golden

JOE DIORIO

Warrant, who entered stud last year in Pennsylvania, is the only new stallion in Maryland after a move to Murmur Farm.

State Juvenile Stakes at Santa Anita. The 4-year-old is a son of Good Magic. A veteran by comparison, Red Vine started at stud in 2017. His 23 runners include 15 winners. New York-bred champion Somelikeithotbrown won 10 races (eight stakes) during six seasons on the racetrack. His first foals arrive this year.

Pennsylvania-bred **Beren**, who won a dozen races over five seasons on the track, retires to stand alongside his sire Weigelia at Wyn Oaks Farm in Delta, Pa. Beren won seven stakes and earned $944,890. Both are listed as available for private contracts. They're joined by Command Post, a son of Harlan's Holiday.

Pennsylvania-bred **Winchill** leads the stallion roster at Linda Merritt's Monte Cristo Farm near Oxford, Pa. Formerly the racing/breeding base of Charles and Luisita Cuprill, the farm just to the north of Fair Hill, Md., will also stand **Bullet Butch, Fast Draw Kid** and **McQueen's Bullitt.** A son of Tapit, Winchill has sired stakes winners You Must Chill, Winning Time and Honorable Win and had 26 winners from 44 lifetime starters through Nov. 8.

Peace and Justice, who stood at Blackstone Farm with several other now relocated horses, moves out of Pennsylvania to New York . . . Pin Oak Lane Farm's **Cloud Computing** led the 2024 sire list in Pennsylvania with Enticed jumping into the second spot. Cloud Computing horses earned $3,971,901 through Dec. 10, paced by $377,000 from Pennsylvania-bred Grade 2 winner I'm Very Busy. A son of Maclean's Music, Cloud Computing covered 45 mares in 2024 and is standing at $3,500 (with discounts for multiple mares) for 2025.

• • •

While the rosters at Maryland's main commercial stallion operations Northview Stallion Station and Country Life Farm

don't change much for 2025, the state welcomes **Warrant**, who stood the 2024 season (his first) in Pennsylvania. The son of Constitution bred 49 mares at Blackstone Farm and joins the more-established Blofeld at Murmur Farm.

"We really like the horse and our goal is to make him a big-time stallion," said Randy Gullatt, a partner in Kentucky's Twin Creeks Farm which bred the 7-year-old chestnut. "We raced Constitution and made him a stallion in Kentucky and bred quite a few graded stakes winners (including Grade 1 winner and sire Tiz the Law) by him. Warrant is the favorite physical we've ever raised at the farm. We're a big believer in him."

Gullatt ticked through various conformation qualities – "excellent bone, great size, great balance, soundness" – and hopes regional breeders continue to notice. Gullatt expects Warrant's first foals to help sell the idea when they arrive this year.

"I predict the foals are going to look like him and if they do, people are going to want to breed to him again," he said.

State incentives, expanded racing spur stallion business in Virginia

By Joe Clancy

"Build it and they will come."

In the movie *Field of Dreams*, Kevin Costner's character Ray Kinsella hears that line, turns an Iowa cornfield into a baseball field and soon hosts the ghosts of famous players for practices and games.

There's no voice from the sky and Shoeless Joe Jackson hasn't shown up, but Virginia Thoroughbred incentives and expanded racing opportunities at Colonial Downs helped attract two new stallions to the state for 2025. The momentum made earlier impacts in the mare population and, to a greater extent, the young horse population getting Virginia-certified.

Stallions were a logical next step.

Chance It and **Five Star General** won't turn around many Kentucky-bound mares, but will make an impact and are some of the first pieces to a more solid Thoroughbred foundation in the state.

"There are new stallions in town, which is always good, we're really excited to have them," said Debbie Easter, president of the Virginia Equine Alliance. "It's showing that we're growing in Virginia, and I definitely think it's because of the racing side expanding a little bit. People are paying attention to that."

Colonial Downs opened in 1997, hosted relatively short meets, closed after a short 2013 season and didn't race again until 2019. In the meantime, the state created a residency program for young horses and paid incentives to breeders and certifiers based on results at other tracks. That type of lure helped bridge gaps, but only went so far. Easter said the track's return, subsequent purchase by Churchill Downs Inc., expanded live program (44 days in 2025), connection to historic horse racing machines and a deeper pool of incentives translated to more activity on the breeding/development side.

Stallions might be the last piece of that puzzle, but business continues to inch up. In 2024, The Jockey Club reported 31 mares bred in Virginia, the highest number since 2017. New stallions will help grow the total, though Easter is thinking bigger and beyond state borders.

"It's really difficult to compete with what's going on with commercial sires in Kentucky," she said. "Ultimately, for people who are really in the stallion business, we're going to have to look at some kind of Mid-Atlantic program to really help the stallion guys."

For now, states soldier on independently. Virginia too.

Chance It relocates from Florida, where he stood three seasons after a racing career that included $583,330 in earnings from four wins, three in stakes, for trainer Saffie Joseph Jr. and Shooting Star Thoroughbreds. The son of Currency Swap placed in the Forego Stakes-G1 at Saratoga in 2021. He covered 33 mares his first season (2022), but was down to 16 in 2024. His first foals are 2-year-olds of 2025.

Out of the Pleasantly Perfect mare Vagabon Diva, Chance It stands for $2,000 at Willow Hill Equestrian in Orange.

"I looked him up once they called me, but I didn't know him at all," said Tommy Doyle, who owns Willow Hill with his wife Sarah. "You look at him and the horse is impressive. He's a big, leggy, athletic horse and I'll surprised if his 2-year-olds don't do well next year."

"The breeding folks all keep screaming that they want soundness, yet over and over you see everyone trend to the fragile but very fast horses. To me, this horse gives you great bone and great soundness."

Warrant won three times as a 3-year-old in 2021, including victories in the Oklahoma Derby-G3 and Texas Derby. At 4, he placed in the Santa Anita Handicap-G1, Brooklyn-G2, Prairie Meadows Cornhusker-G3 and Fair Grounds' Louisiana-G3 (the latter behind Mandaloun and Midnight Bourbon). At 5, he won the Isaac Murphy Marathon going 1½ miles and placed in two other stakes.

Warrant stands for $4,500 and will get support from Twin Creeks, partner Uptowncharlybrown Stud and others.

His neighbor **Blofeld** continues to climb the regional stallion ladder with 86 covers in 2022, 99 in 2023 and 76 in 2024 after never getting beyond 35 in his first four seasons. His first four crops have yielded 56 winners from 67 starters (through Dec. 10) and he ranks first by average earnings per runner

Shooting Star has utilized the Virginia-certified program for a few years and saw the potential of standing a stallion in the state as well.

"We evaluated which direction would make the most impact for Chance It as a maturing stallion moving forward," said Shooting Star general manager Mary Lightner, "and arrived at the decision that Virginia met our criteria best."

For the Doyles, the addition means more business at their farm – already a hub of activity with mares and young horses.

Willow Hill also stands Grade 2 winner True Valour (Ire), whose first foals are yearlings, plus Tapizar horse Hollywood Handsome, Hanoverian dressage stallion Liberty Gold and Welsh pony stallion Birkinbrook Masquerade.

The Thoroughbred business is booming. In addition to boarding mares and young horses for in-state clients, Willow Hill hosted horses for owners/breeders from Texas, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Florida, Kentucky and beyond.

"We were busier last year than we've ever been and I think this year is going to blow that out of the water," Doyle said. "Without those incentives this wouldn't be happening. It happened way back in the 1990s and I was involved a little bit then [with Sunnydale Farm], but we've been waiting for this for a long time."

Five Star General comes to Virginia by way of the West Coast. Bred by WinStar Farm, he won two of three starts (including a stakes at Aqueduct) at 2 with trainer Arnaud Delacour in 2018. The son of Distorted Humor tried graded company early as a 3-year-old before finishing second in Delaware Park's Stanton Stakes and going through the auction ring, selling for $180,000 at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky's summer horses of racing age sale. He proceeded to win his first three starts for North American Thoroughbred Horse Company, including the British Columbia Derby-G3 at Canada's Hastings Park. He finished second in the 2020 Longacres Mile-G3 at Emerald Downs and won twice more at Hastings in 2021. Sold again, for $110,000 to Kenny Alhadeff's Elttaes Stable, Five Star General won six more times through August including the last two runnings of the Longacres Mile (now a listed stakes). He retired this summer with 13 wins in 39 starts and $902,202 in the bank.

Alhadeff teams up with Owl Hollow Farm in Floyd to stand the 9-year-old bay, out of the Bernardini mare Party of Interest. Owned by the Covilar LLC of Dr. Josep Bassaganya-Riera, Owl Hollow spans 120 acres and was once the base of Virginia Horse Center Hall of Famer and show-horse breeder Steve Cushing McBroom.

Raising Thoroughbreds expands on that legacy, and stallions are part of the equation. Five Star General, nicknamed "Ike" after World War II general and U.S. president Dwight Eisenhower, will stand for $6,000 with incentives in the works for certain mares.

"Five Star General is the ideal stallion to begin expanding Covilar and Owl Hollow Farm," said Bassaganya-Riera, a member of the life sciences faculty at Virginia Tech and an expert in immunology and autoimmune disease treatment. "Thanks to our partnership with Kenny Alhadeff, we're thrilled to offer breeders a top-class stallion right here in Virginia . . . Our breeding programs are designed to maximize performance, speed and stamina of the offspring. We believe that the addition of 'Ike' as our leading stallion is a natural choice and excellent complement to our emerging Thoroughbred breeding program."

Five Star General joins South American Group 1 winner Snapy Halo (Arg) on the farm's stallion roster. That son of Southern Halo previously stood in Australia and Kentucky and has been at Owl Hollow since 2022.

In mid-December, stallion manager Craig Whitlow said he had 17 mares committed to Five Star General while hoping for more. The horse, purchased with help from bloodstock agent Chad Schumer, will help close any deals.

"He's big, he's put together perfectly and I look at him and say, 'I can't believe we've got this horse on the farm,'" Whitlow said. "He's put together correctly everywhere, has a great eye on him and a perfect shoulder. He's a Kentucky sire in Virginia." ■

"We didn't get any new stallions just because we have a solid group and we're trying to get some mares to some of them. These horses are all homegrown stallions. That's not an easy thing to do."

– Northview Stallion Station's Paul O'Loughlin

($101,485) on the Mid-Atlantic's active sires list. The son of Quality Road stands for $5,000.

Northview did not add a stallion for the 2025 season, but said goodbye to three – Irish War Cry, who moved to Arkansas; Madefromlucky, who moved to Indiana and Hoppertunity, who moved to Louisiana.

Regional leader **Great Notion** returns at age 25 and was booked full by mid-November. Northview will limit his mares once again in hopes of preserving the Elusive Quality horse's longevity. He set a personal record with $5,991,493 in progeny earnings in 2023 and was nearly there again with $5,929,729 this year through Dec. 19. Great Notion's 2024 leaders included Grade 3 winner Coastal Mission (a West Virginia-bred) and multiple Grade 2 winner Future Is Now (a Maryland-bred) plus Maryland Million winners Brilliant Ice and Starstruck Notion.

"He's our Dubawi (Ire), our Northern Dancer, our Into Mischief," said O'Loughlin in December of Great Notion. "It's cool to see him come out. He doesn't look his age. He'll be 25. I could talk about him all day. He's winners. He'll probably breed 30, 35 mares. That'll depend on how he is. Is he starting off well? Is he stopping the mares? He doesn't breed any maidens or any mares with spotty breeding records anymore."

Others at Northview included **Endorsed**, a son of Medaglia d'Oro and half-brother to 2023 Horse of the Year Cody's Wish whose first foals arrive this year; **Engage**, a son of Into Mischief whose first foals race this year and include a $115,000 yearling at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic; **Galawi (Ire)**, a son of top international sire Dubawi whose first foals also race this year; the established **Golden Lad**, whose daughter Caprice won five of six in her juvenile season, four stakes; and **Uncle Lino**, whose 2024 winners include Pennsylvania Nursery victor Crab Daddy and Maryland Million Nursery hero Do It for Michael.

"We're pretty solid," O'Loughlin said of the farm owned by the Golden family. "We didn't get any new stallions just because we have a solid group and we're trying to get some mares to some of them. These horses are all homegrown stallions. That's not an easy thing to do."

Country Life stood pat with **Mosler, Friesan Fire** and **Divining Rod**. Anchor and Hope Farm comes back with **Bourbon Courage** and **Holy Boss**.

Cupid muscled his way into the Maryland (and Mid-Atlantic) sire ranks from Kentucky and covered 52 mares at Atlanta Hall Farm in 2024. The son of Tapit was the only regional sire with a Grade 1 winner in 2024 and trailed only Great Notion by progeny earnings with $4,178,744 through Dec. 19. That Grade 1 winner, Carson's Run, supplied $1,256,100 of the total.

Like most things Maryland Thoroughbred, the stallion/breeding side was awaiting some progress on the racing front as the new Maryland Jockey Club was poised to take over management Jan. 1 and an announcement was pending about the site of a new training center.

"It makes our job harder," said O'Loughlin, speaking for many. "You can see smaller groups around here breeding to race. It has to be that way. At this stage, in the Mid-Atlantic, the more winners you get, the more recognition you get. The history that's here at this farm . . . the Goldens kept the farm here, stayed in the stallion business. It's a wonderful place. We could use a boost from the racing side."

Other stallion doings

Juba continued his climb up the West Virginia sire ranks in 2024, leading the way with 40 winners, four stakes winners, 10 black-type horses and $2,055,002 in progeny earnings through Dec. 10 from his base at Casey's Legacy in Charles Town. The son of Tapit bred 51 mares in 2024 and was listed at $1,500 for 2025.

Beau Ridge Farm's veteran **Fiber Sonde** was second by progeny earnings at $1,750,102, paced by Overnight Pow Wow, who won eight races and earned $285,088 in her 3-year-old season.

O'Sullivan Farms added **Sweetontheladies** to the stallion roster at $1,500. The son of Twirling Candy stood in Florida for four seasons and his first crop raced in 2024. His six foals to race include winner Sweet Cha Cha. ■

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Jenkins remembered for horsemanship

By Joe Clancy

"My opinion is, the horse makes us. We don't make the horse."

As part of a feature in the January 2021 edition of this magazine, Rodney Jenkins said that. When somebody gets around to creating an award in the name of Jenkins, the sentence ought to be on the plaque. Jenkins, who died Dec. 5 at age 80, put together two careers with horses. First, he was a world-class show rider – winning major events the world over. Next, he trained racehorses – winning graded stakes, piling up 941 victories and producing $24.84 million in purse earnings while based mainly at Laurel Park in Maryland.

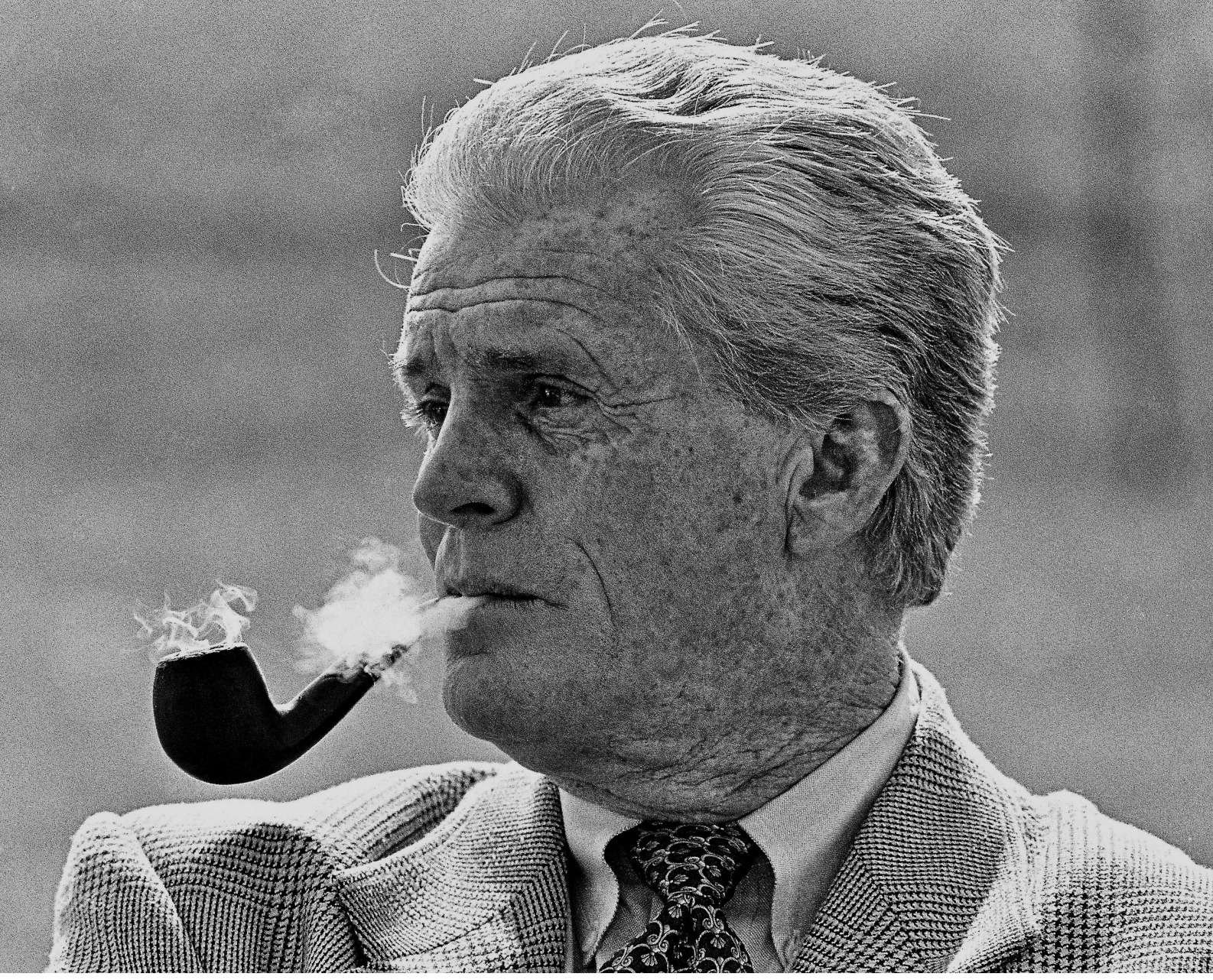
A Virginia native, Jenkins grew up in perhaps the perfect situation to cultivate such careers. His father, Enis, was a huntsman with the Rapidan Hunt and taught his sons – Rodney, Dale and Larry – to ride at Hill Top Farm near Orange, Va. They foxhunted, jumped, went cross-country, trained horses of all shapes, sizes and descriptions. Rodney gravitated toward the show ring. He built courses on the farm, taught horses the necessary skills, watched other riders, learned and developed. By 1961, when he graduated high school, he was off. He won his first major international competition at the Washington International Horse Show in 1970. He would add three more Washington triumphs, win at Madison Square Garden, the Devon Horse Show and anywhere else he swung a leg over a horse.

With Jenkins, Thoroughbred Idle Dice won 31 grand prix titles and became the first horse inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame. He won grand prix classes, speed classes and the high-jumping puissance classes (once clearing a 7-foot, 2¾-inch fence). As a professional in a time when international competitions were restricted to amateurs, Jenkins never rode in the Olympics. When the rules changed, he earned individual and team silver medals at the 1987 Pan American Games as a 43-year-old.

Jenkins retired from the show ring in 1989, and ventured into racing. He pinhooked for a while, then turned to training steeplechasers. Illinois-bred Explosive Darling provided the first win, a $10,000 maiden hurdle at the Tanglewood meet in North Carolina in 1991. By 1998, the stable began to diversify to flat horses. He won 14 races that year, 24 the next and topped $1 million in purses for the first of 10 consecutive years in 2002. Cordmaker topped $1 million in earnings and won 14 races, 11 of them stakes including the General George-G3 in 2022. Twice he finished third in the Pimlico Special-G3. Phlash Phelps won the Maryland Million Turf twice. Shimmering Aspen won five stakes and earned $415,660. Bandbox won his first three starts in 2010 and won the General George in 2014 in his second start off a 17-month layoff. All four were purchased as yearlings at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic by Jenkins for Ellen Charles' Hillwood Stable.

Jenkins' last starter, 3-year-old gelding The Band Runs On, finished fourth in Laurel's Star de Naskra June 29. His last winner came with 3-year-old filly Lilly Lightning April 19 at Laurel. Both horses were bred in Maryland and owned by Hillwood.

"We had a wonderful time together," Charles said via a Maryland Jockey Club press release. "I learned a lot from Rodney. Even though I had grown up around horses, I hadn't



DOUGLAS LEES

grown up as far as breeding them and going to sales and things like that. He was a really fun person to be with. It was great, great experience."

Jenkins' other graded-stakes win came with On The Run Farm's Running Tide in the 2002 Leonard Richards-G3 at Delaware Park. Other top horses he trained were Willa On the Move, winner of Laurel's 2002 Politely and second that year in the Acorn-G1 and Miss Preakness-G2; and multiple stakes winners Outstander and Mt. Carson.

Trainer Hamilton Smith, 79, knew Jenkins for decades from their time on the Laurel backstretch. Over a five-year span between 2014 and 2018, Smith and Jenkins won the Maryland Million Turf twice each – Smith with Talk Show Man (2014, 2018) and Jenkins with Phlash Phelps (2015-16).

"He'd beat me and then I'd beat him and it went back and forth. It was always Phlash Phleps and Talk Show Man. It was a pretty good rivalry there," Smith said in the MJC release. "Rodney was top shelf, no doubt about that. I don't see where anybody could fault him for what he did as a competitor in the show ring that carried right over to training horses. He was just a first-class guy."

Jenkins downplayed the difficulty in transition from the show ring to the racetrack.

"I think all horses have been a learning curve," he said in that 2021 article. "You train the horse and let the horse train you how he wants to be trained – whether it was a jumper or a racehorse. There's no difference. The ones that want to do it show it to you real quick."

"The job part was easy because Rodney was more laid back than most people. He liked horses. We'd been together so long I knew what he liked with the horses. It was automatic."

– Assistant trainer Eveline Kjelstrup, who started working with Jenkins in 1986

Eveline Kjelstrup started working for Jenkins in 1986, and never left. She remembers days of watching him ride 50-60 show horses a day, early days at steeplechase meets with the likes of South American Group 1 winner Indian Toss (Arg) and later days when two weeks at the racetrack to get gate cards turned into eight months. Jenkins got stalls at Laurel, the stable swelled to 35 and ballooned to 71 at Colonial Downs one summer.

All the while, Jenkins was a boss and a mentor but plenty more too.

"He was intense when he was riding but not so much later," Kjelstrup said. "The job part was easy because Rodney was more laid back than most people. He liked horses. We'd been together so long I knew what he liked with the horses. It was automatic."

Wolf Talk won the Cavalier Cup at Colonial Downs in 1998 to provide an early stakes win. Running Tide, Outstander, Shimmering Aspen, Golden Years, Bandbox, Love's Blush, Phlash Phelps, Cordmaker and the rest followed along. Love's Blush lost two starts as a juvenile in 2008, but Jenkins preached patience to owner/breeder Richard Golden.

"She just needs a little more time, she's going to be nice," the trainer told his client. "She's going to be nice."

She won five including the 2011 Maryland Million Ladies in 2011 and produced graded stakes winner Beach View.

Kjelstrup trains six horses for Hillwood Stable now, and tries to follow Jenkins' example.

"Horsemanship," she said about what she learned from him. "The horses will let you know what to do. The horses will talk, you've just got to listen to them. It wasn't like he was sitting there teaching. You just had to open your eyes and pay attention. I knew what he wanted and we tried to do the best we could for each horse."

Jockey Victor Carrasco steered Cordmaker, Phlash Phelps, Shimmering Aspen, Golden Years and others to victory for Jenkins, but will remember far more than finish lines and winner's circles.

"He treated me like family," Carrasco said. "Every time I was injured, he called me every other day saying, 'Victor, do you need anything?' When I heard the news, I was very sad. He was more than a trainer to me."

It wasn't always that way. When he first started riding in Maryland after launching his career in Puerto Rico, Carrasco was told to look up Jenkins. The trainer had good horses, knew where to run them and would support jockeys once they started riding for him.

"I was going to his barn almost from the first day in early April every morning as early as possible to check with him to see if I could get a mount because I was told he was a good trainer and very loyal to his jockeys and had good horses," Carrasco said. "No kidding, it took me six months to get my first mount."

Carrasco won 215 races in 2013 and received the Eclipse Award as the year's top apprentice. His first ride for Jenkins came Oct. 24 aboard Love's Not Fair, who finished second by a nose. Two weeks later, Nov. 7, she and Carrasco won by a nose.

"Once I was in, he was great, very simple to ride for, not many instructions," said Carrasco. "He was nothing but great to me."

While in Jenkins' office at Laurel through the years, Carrasco would eyeball a few show-jumping photos mixed in with the racetrack win pictures.

"He didn't talk about it much," the jockey said. "He told me he traveled all over the world, but he was a star everywhere he went. We didn't get into details. He was like, 'That's in the past,' like he didn't accomplish anything." ■

Jenkins is survived by his wife Unjin Jenkins, who rode for South Korea in the 1988 Olympics and is now an artist; their sons Matthew and Ty; and three children from a previous marriage, Blythe, Robert and Patrick Jenkins. A memorial service was scheduled for noon Jan. 7 at Tycoons in the Laurel Park clubhouse.

— Broker's Tip —

BY RICK ABBOTT

A Horseman

Show jumping Hall of Famers Rodney Jenkins and Idle Dice.

On Sept. 2, 1964, at Convention Hall in Philadelphia, I attended the 12th show in a 32-show tour by The Beatles. It was their first American tour and it was a cultural phenomenon. My grandfather, president of the local chapter of the Theatrical Stage Employees union, scored two tickets for my girlfriend and me to attend the only Philadelphia show on the tour. From first-row balcony seats we watched the crush of fans storm the stage as only teenage girls can. It was something never to forget. I was 16 that summer.

Earlier that year, the third week in May to be precise, I witnessed another phenomenon in its embryonic stages. The Lancaster Horse Show was, in those days, held on the weekend before the world-famous Devon Horse Show, a weeklong extravaganza starting on Memorial Day weekend. Sixty years later Devon is still going strong, but Lancaster is only a fading memory.

I was in Lancaster to show my only horse, Corporate Image, in the first-year green hunter division. There were a lot of professional riders in that division but one drew everyone's attention. He was showing six horses in the division as well as four in the second years and several working hunters as well. Most of us had never encountered such a situation. Sure, maybe somebody would show two in a class; going early on one and late on the other; but this guy would ride every fifth or sixth horse in the class. He would finish one round, jump off that horse and on to another, take two or three practice jumps, head right into the ring and go again. He even had two saddles so the third horse could be ready when he exited the ring. Did I mention, he won all the classes? This was my introduction to 20-year-old Rodney Jenkins. He went on to become, in my world, bigger than The Beatles.

People in the horse show world have no idea how successful Rodney was as a Thoroughbred trainer. He saddled 941 winners (20 percent winners from starters) including millionaire and graded stakes winner Cordmaker. Conversely, the racing community has little appreciation for Rodney's status in the show world. Competing at a time when professionals were excluded from the Olympics, he won every significant hunter and jumper championship so many times that everyone lost count. He won five American Gold Cups, the Grand Prix at Madison Square Garden three times and Washington International four. Although most of his mounts were Thoroughbreds, he bought a Warmblood, The Natural, and sold him for $1 million, making him the first Grand Prix jumper to bring that price. See, bigger than The Beatles.

Dixie and I were deeply involved in the horse show world until we bought our farm in 1980 and abruptly transitioned to the world of Thoroughbred trading. I always maintained my judge's card in the hunter breeding division and would judge a few shows each year. I was fortunate enough to judge some of the most important shows including Devon, Upperville,

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Keswick, Warrenton and, even once, The Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. So, in the 1970s and '80s we had many opportunities to marvel at Rodney's exploits in the hunter and jumper rings. In 1989 when he retired, he was the winningest rider in horse show history.

I also showed horses "on the line" for a few horsemen who didn't like to do it themselves. One year I was showing some young ponies at Devon and Rodney was judging. My ponies had not qualified for the best young pony class, so legendary pony breeder Marguerite Taylor asked me to show one of hers in the class. She handed me a pony with two of the brightest blue eyes I had ever seen and a big bald face to go with it. Marguerite showed a bay with a beautiful head and neck. I knew why she had selected that one to show herself.

During the judging Rodney came up close to my pony and stared into its eyes. "Can he see out of them things?" he asked. I allowed that he seemed to see just fine and he walked back and made my blue-eyed pony the best young pony of that year's Devon Horse Show. There was an audible gasp from the crowd. That was Rodney – a quiet man with the courage of his convictions.

Years later when he had teamed up with Ellen Charles' Hillwood Stable, he applied that quiet confidence to the selection of prospects at Fasig-Tipton's fall yearling sale. We often sold large consignments of 40-80 yearlings but when Rodney entered the shedrow, I'd only show him three or four. We knew he was looking for the crème de la crème from our draft and from the whole sale. Chewing on his pipe, he would lift his eyebrows when he saw "the one" and he would give me a secret smile. When he returned with Mrs. Charles you hoped and prayed she concurred with his judgment. She usually did.

In 2010 Rodney and Mrs. Charles were the underbidders on our After Market colt who topped the sale at $250,000. Two years later they bought our Audley Farm-bred Malibu Moon gray filly who topped the 2012 auction for $300,000. Neither horse turned out to be a world-beater, but the filly was useful. Hillwood found great success mining the top echelon of that sale each October. Rodney knew what he liked and Charles was steadfast in her support of his expertise.

Rodney Jenkins developed that expertise over a 65-year career on top of a horse and under a horse. My friend John Forbes, leading trainer in New Jersey for many years, learned his craft as an assistant to Maryland trainer John Tammaro Jr. and told me that Tammaro's success came because he was "more horse than man."

It is the highest compliment one horseman can pay to another. Even The Beatles would agree that description fit Rodney like a glove. ■

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Rivalry at the Races

KULP, KREISER COMPETE FOR PENN NATIONAL TRAINING CROWN – AGAIN

By Ali Çetinok ■ Photograph by Equi-Photo, Inc.

Everyone knows the feeling of rivalry. With a sibling, a teammate or a competitor on the field, rivalries are a part of life. Some thrive on the competition, others see it as a drive for growth and improvement. For trainers Tim Kreiser and Brandon Kulp at Penn National, rivalry has come to define their careers in recent years. They've battled for the training title at the Grantville, Pa., racetrack – a title with no prize money, no fanfare, and no real reason to want it other than respect from peers and personal pride.

Kreiser's and Kulp's journeys are a product of what happens when two competitive spirits face off in a year-long racing season. The Penn National racing calendar starts in January and runs through December. There's one meet to win, based on the whole year.

Like a good stretch duel, the trainers have been neck-and-neck in wins, with Kreiser narrowly edging Kulp last year 57-56. Both trainers had 245 starts, which seems somewhat impossible but it happened. This year's race was similarly close. In mid-November, Kreiser led by two, 43-41. Kulp rallied over the next few weeks and led 54-50 through Dec. 17.

The next night, Kreiser won the first with Stormquist only to see the horse get disqualified and placed fifth for interference. The winner? Kulp runner Strider's Slider. Kulp won another to go up 56-50 with four days left in the season. On Dec. 19, Kreiser halved that lead by winning three consecutive races with Tactial Humor, Pocket Sand and Fleeting Ember.

So Kulp led 56-53 with three days left in the meet. Fun.

The rivalry isn't about titles or trophies but rather pride, dedication, and the recognition that comes from topping the standings for a calendar year. Kreiser and Kulp share a mutual respect, each pushing the other to new heights.

Older and more experienced, Kreiser embodies old-school horsemanship. He isn't one for the limelight or accolades; he's interested in winning but values the work involved with each individual horse.

"At Penn National, they don't make a big deal out of it. They come up and give you a statue of a horse in the morning – that's what I got last year," he said with a shrug. "It's not like it's a big, big thing. I guess it's an ego thing, if you want to call it that. It's not a great big deal to me, truthfully. If it happens, it happens."

Kreiser's approach stems from his early experiences, growing up 15 minutes from the track but unaware of the world on the other side of the stable gate.

"Did I know there was a racetrack?" he asked. "No, I stumbled upon it myself, but I had no interest in horses back in the day."

Since those early days, however, Kreiser has developed an ability to get the best out of horses, running them where they belong and providing them with individualized care. He saddled his first runners in 1993, has won 10 consecutive training championships at Penn National and won 2,268 races lifetime (through Dec. 19).

David Bushey of Bush Racing Stable, which has a long-standing relationship with Kreiser, praised the trainer's philosophy.

"Tim wants to run horses where they belong, and he wants owners who allow him some autonomy to do that," Bushey said. "He's one of those old-school horsemen. It's about identifying what's wrong with the horse and taking care of it – we find what's wrong and determine a treatment plan."

Trainers Tim Kreiser (left) and Brandon Kulp are racing for the training championship at Penn National again.

The Kreiser-trained, Bush Racing-owned Pennsylvania-bred Keeping It Country led all horses with five wins at Penn National in 2024. Magic Spin won three at the track before getting claimed.

Sassy Lad won two at Penn National and one at Delaware Park for Kreiser, who claimed the Golden Lad gelding from Kulp (after two wins at Penn National) in July.

While Kreiser is an established figure at Penn National with those 10 previous training titles, Kulp looks to win his first crown. His journey into racing started young: his father owned horses, and Kulp quickly found himself captivated by the sport. He saddled his first runner in 2006 and passed 850 lifetime wins in early December.

"I grew up here. My dad first got into it because he owned horses, and I just fell in love with it. This is my home," Kulp said. "Year-round racing is nice too; it's very rare to have year-round racing."

Last year, Kulp's narrow runner-up was made all the more frustrating by a barn quarantine. He had zero runners between Nov. 17 and Dec. 16.

"He beat me by one last year, and I got quarantined in October where the horse ended up having strangles," Kulp said. "I definitely would have beaten him if I hadn't been quarantined, but that's just the way it goes."

Despite the setback, Kulp has set his sights on this year's title.

"I'm not sure if I can catch him this year, but I definitely want to make it my goal for next year to get the training title," he said. "I've never had a training title. But with the way things are, I definitely want to make it my goal for next year. It'd be cool to do it at least once."

Matt Groff, an owner who has had horses with both trainers, has been with Kulp since his early days and seen him mature over the years.

"Brandon's been one of my main trainers for years. I've watched him grow up in the business," Groff said. "It's rewarding to see the success he's had over his career."

Kulp's top horse, Boat's a Rockin', didn't race at Penn National in 2024 but took him to the Saratoga winner's circle.

> "Any trainer who says they don't look at the standings every once in a while would be lying."
>
> *– Owner David Bushey, as Tim Kreiser and Brandon Kulp competed for the Penn National crown*

Gurt's Warrior won three at the home track before getting claimed away, and Strider's Slider now has three.

Groff appreciates the consistency and transparency he brings.

"You're on this kind of journey together, and when things are going great, everyone's on that high," Groff said. "But when things don't go well, you want someone with integrity, who's transparent and can deliver bad news constructively. With Brandon, we've had a consistent relationship."

While competition can breed animosity, Kulp and Kreiser maintain mutual respect, seeing the rivalry as part of the game rather than a personal battle.

"We do claim off each other; it's not like we go after each other, but he claims off me, I claim off him," Kulp said. "I respect him; he's a good horseman, and he's done well for many years. I'd like to do it, though."

For Kreiser, he sees the training championship as a product of doing the job right.

"It's not like it's a big, big thing," he said. "If it happens, it happens."

That pragmatism has endeared him to owners who value that attention to detail over a 31-year career.

"Tim took a couple of our horses, and we had a lot of success early on," Bushey said. "Now we're up to about 15. I might have half the barn with Tim. There are a couple of things you need in a trainer – trust, and someone who fits your style. We like to be aggressive in how we place horses and run to win. Tim has the same mentality."

Kulp frequently relies on Angel Rodriguez, who led Penn National's jockeys' standings with 110 wins through Dec. 19, to help deliver victories.

"Angel has been an integral part of our success and the relationship," Groff said. "Angel came to Penn National years ago, and Brandon really gave him a chance. Right off the bat, we had a lot of success."

As the meet neared its conclusion, the "Kulp or Kreiser?" question hung out there like a Super Bowl pick even if the people involved were just trying to play the game.

As Bushey put it, "Any trainer who says they don't look at the standings every once in a while would be lying." ■

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RETIRED RACEHORSE PROJECT

Tally-Ho

EX-RACEHORSES CAN FIND HOMES IN THE HUNT FIELD

By Kristen Kovatch Bentley

It's hunting season, and a lucky few might be able to glimpse the hunt in action across the countryside, looking like a scene out of history or a painting come to life. The fox hunt might seem like the furthest thing from the racetrack: horses and hounds thunder over varied terrain, or else pull up and stand; horses work in company but not competitively, and an outing might last four hours or more.

The demands of the hunt field, however, are perfectly suited to the Thoroughbred after racing – or perhaps it's the other way around. So say Tom Mansmann, a professional and member of Old Dominion Hounds in Virginia, and Cameron Sadler, joint master of foxhounds for the Moore County Hounds in North Carolina.

While the demands of the sport are quite different from the rigors of racing, the same qualities make Thoroughbreds well-suited to both: chiefly, natural endurance makes the breed a top choice for long days in the saddle.

"Over the years, we've seen the heavier breeds of horses have endurance issues in the hunt field," said Mansmann. "Especially in the first flight, which might have long gallops and lots of terrain. In particular, the Thoroughbreds make excellent staff horses – that includes the huntsmen, whips and masters."

Hunts are divided into fields or flights: the first flight typically can expect the most speed and jumping, while second and third fields move a little slower and over a less intense route. This practice allows more riders and horses to experience the thrill of hunting, while also allowing them to move in groups best-matched to their experience or comfort level.

"In some hunts, a rider in the second or third field may not need a Thoroughbred," Mansmann said. "Statistically, about half or more of your hunters won't be in the first flight. But those second and third fields offer an option for older or younger riders, or a step-down option for horses from the first flight."

Further south in North Carolina, Sadler observed that they're often pursuing coyotes, versus red or gray fox. "Chases are longer and faster," she said. "We need horses with amazing stamina and quick recovery time to keep up with the hounds on a coyote chase; off-track Thoroughbreds are the best for these jobs."

Equally important to the stamina and endurance of the hunt horse, however, is the ability to walk and stand comfortably in groups – it's not all just galloping through the countryside.

"Every day is a big chase," said Sadler, "so it's critical for a horse to walk and stand with other riders' horses for several hours. Thoroughbreds seem to have a natural ability to stay calm when surrounded by chaos."

This aspect of hunting is where Thoroughbreds' past experiences come in handy: they're accustomed to busy atmospheres at the racetrack, standing quietly at the rail while other horses breeze by, and keeping their cool in stimulating environments on race day. When viewed through this lens, the hunt field isn't far off.

BETHANY P PHOTOGRAPHY

CAPTIVATION PHOTOGRAPHY (2)

Competition at the Thoroughbred Makeover simulates challenges Thoroughbreds will face on the hunt field.

"The horse's ability to demonstrate a calm mind when they're surrounded by a cacophony of hound music and the sound of the horn is incredible," said Sadler. "They can be so calm when surrounded by sensory overload."

The actual process of transitioning a horse from racing to hunting, like any other career shift, requires patience – but it's not complicated, said Mansmann, who has produced countless horses professionally as well as specifically for the Thoroughbred Makeover and its 10-month training timeline.

"We introduce them to the hounds as soon as possible," he said. "We're located just 4 miles from the kennels, so it's easy for us to walk out with the hounds either mounted or on foot. A good hunt horse needs to be comfortable with the hounds quite close; the safety of the hounds takes priority in the field so the horse should not kick."

Once a horse is familiar with the hounds, Mansmann takes the horse out on the varied terrain he or she might face in a hunt: working up and down hills and through water. After that, he'll introduce jumping.

"Footwork and agility are a huge advantage in the hunt field," he said. "In our particular territory, we also often encounter cattle, so we familiarize our horses around cows.

> "When given the chance, Thoroughbreds want to please and do well in their new roles. They're so smart, they learn so fast. Other breeds, in my experience, seem less receptive to changing their way of going."
>
> *– Cameron Sadler, on converting ex-racehorses to foxhunters*

We might also need to open and close gates, or jump in and out of a field."

As Sadler put it, the Thoroughbred desire to do the right thing is also an asset to the transition.

"When given the chance, Thoroughbreds want to please and do well in their new roles," she said. "They're so smart, they learn so fast. Other breeds, in my experience, seem less receptive to changing their way of going."

Mansmann, who trains and sells horses professionally, is quick to say that there have been many great horses over the years – but that one of his favorites is his 2024 Thoroughbred Makeover graduate, Trending.

"He's taken to this like a natural-born hunt horse," he said. "He's super scopey over the fences, he has a great ground-covering gallop."

Campaigned by his breeder Andrew Rosen, Trending won once in nine starts for trainer Shug McGaughey. The son of Uncle Mo was destined for more than a foxhunting career as his dam Theyskens' Theory won a Group 3 in England and placed in a Grade 1 in New York before becoming a broodmare. Among her nine named foals are five winners, one a $1.2 million yearling. Trending finished third in his final race, a Churchill Downs turf allowance in May 2023.

For Mansmann, moments no one else sees define the horse and rider relationship in the hunt field.

"I often volunteer as a whip with Old Dominion Hounds, which means that I'm riding off to the sides of the hounds looking for quarry," he said. "We're off by ourselves often out in the wilderness in that role, and when you approach a coop or a wall, out alone, you need a sturdy and reliable horse beneath you. You form a bit of a bond when you start working together like that – it's a bit of survival mode out there.

"He's the kind of horse you want underneath you in a dangerous situation. He can handle big jumps, deep creek crossings, cattle encounters, groundhog holes. I love this kind of work: you get to be out there on your own with a horse, and you're really working."

Sadler similarly has too many great Thoroughbreds in her string over the years to pick just one favorite, but recalled the kind of moment that cements for her that she'll never ride any other breed: "My favorite experience is leading the first flight to the end of a long chase," she said. "Our hunts typically last about four hours. One of the most exciting things is when the quarry runs long and fast, then reverses and goes through the field – the hounds run directly toward us and under our horses. It's amazing how the horses just stand and don't move a muscle, taking in everything around them along with us."

Field hunters at the Makeover

Honoring the suitability of the Thoroughbred to the hunt field, the Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover includes a field hunter discipline, which has become a fan favorite to observe during preliminary competition. The competition format is based on questions asked of a hunter in the field, so horses are first tested in a group on the flat, then perform an individual test including common obstacles such as a water crossing, jumps, opening and closing a gate, and dropping a rail. On Thursday morning, the mock hunt takes place, with all competitors riding out in a group to hounds around a predetermined course.

All trainers who wish to participate in the field hunter discipline must submit a letter from a Masters of Foxhounds Association-recognized hunt, certifying that the trainer has hunted first or second field at least twice in one formal hunt season within the past two years. This rule ensures safety and proper hunt field etiquette at the Thoroughbred Makeover.

The discipline was the route to the overall Thoroughbred Makeover Champion title for 2021 entrant Forthegreatergood, trained by Laura Sloan. ■

Kristen Kovatch Bentley is the communications manager for the Maryland-based Retired Racehorse Project. For more, see therrp.org.

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The Steeplechase Times

Born Before the Wind

MYSTIC STRIKE SINGS TO TIMBER CHAMPIONSHIP AT 15

By Joe Clancy

Greatness intersected with Mystic Strike from the beginning.

As a yearling in 2010, he shared a Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sales catalog with future Grade 1 winners Cross Traffic and Union Rags while failing to sell at $280,000. In 2012 Luis Saez, four years into a 3,615-wins-and-counting jockey career, rode the Florida-bred to a maiden win at Calder Race Course. In 2013 Juan Leyva, future exercise rider of undefeated champion Flightline, steered Mystic Strike to a Calder allowance win.

But that's about as close to the big time as the Florida-bred son of Smart Strike would get.

Sold by breeder Peter Vegso at the end of 2013, Mystic Strike made the first of 11 consecutive claiming starts in March 2014. The price was $50,000 and he lost by 38 lengths. By June, he won for a $10,000 tag at Monmouth Park and got claimed. Slips dropped in his next two starts, the second for $5,000 and – in the barn of Maryland-based Kieron Magee – Mystic Strike won the fourth race of his life at Charles Town in December 2014. The $5,000 claimer carried a purse of $10,500 and might have been the last stop for the 5-year-old bay horse (not gelding), except for one more encounter.

Steeplechase trainer Todd McKenna, who specializes in timber racing from his base in Pennsylvania, contacted Magee about Mystic Strike while searching for prospects.

"He was a specimen as an athlete, from the first day I saw him," McKenna said. "Kieron pulled him out of the stall at Pimlico and I felt like I was looking at the Michael Jordan of horses. I had my mind made up before Kieron even jogged him up. He had won a non-winners of four lifetime for $5,000. Where was he going to go from there?"

As it turned out, to 10 more years as a racehorse and – in his final year of competition – the National Steeplechase Association's timber division championship. Mystic Strike, 15, won two of three starts in 2024, earned $79,500 to top all timber horses and rewarded McKenna and the Upland Partners (McKenna, Bill Wylie, Sally Wood and Mary MacKinnon) ownership group one more time.

"Finally, timber Horse of the Year at the age of 15, I'm amazed by him," said McKenna. "It was an easy decision to keep him in training all these years because he loves his job and is very competitive in everything he does."

Gelded after the purchase at the end of 2014, Mystic Strike needed to be patient because he followed a scenic route to his second career.

Unraced in 2015, he made his timber debut at Piedmont Point-to-Point in March 2016 and finished fourth. Three weeks later, he won at the Fair Hill Point-to-Point and in May became an official winner under NSA rules at Winterthur. Back for more the following spring, he won at Elkridge-Harford Point-to-Point and added two NSA wins – an allowance at the Grand National in Maryland and the Radnor Hunt Cup Stakes in Pennsylvania. Winless with three stakes-placings in four 2018 starts, he won the My Lady's Manor and Pennsylvania Hunt Cup stakes in 2019, added another Pennsylvania Hunt Cup during a Covid-shortened 2020, won three races in 2021, captured a third Pennsylvania Hunt Cup in 2022 and won the Virginia Gold Cup in 2023. He missed

DOUGLAS LEES

Mystic Strike powers toward the finish of the International Gold Cup in October.

> "He'll hunt like he's always hunted, but maybe he'll become more of a calm hunter."
>
> *– Trainer Todd McKenna, about Mystic Strike's retirement plans*

the fall season that year after getting kicked by his half-brother Rhythmia, another McKenna timber horse, in the field.

Even by timber-horse standards, a 15-year-old campaign is a rarity but McKenna left open the possibility of racing in 2024. As usual, Mystic Strike foxhunted for fitness. Also as usual, he went to a spring point-to-point at Warrenton, Va., in March. He and jockey Andrew Burke-Ott won, but missed a beacon and were disqualified for going off course. Adding injury to insult, Mystic Strike emerged with a problem.

"He was kind of hunting fit and he hit himself, struck into himself and had swelling on the tendon sheath," said McKenna. "We just nursed him along and waited and waited."

Two months later, Mystic Strike finished second at Radnor after a stretch battle with Court Ruler (Ire). The fifth-graders of racing, timber horses take a summer vacation. Mystic Strike rested while his trainer considered one final autumn campaign, got back to work in time for an October goal and showed up for the $50,000 National Sporting Library and Museum Cup at Virginia Fall Oct. 12. He took over from 14-year-old Schoodic late and held off 6-year-old stablemate Hard Strike by 2¼ lengths for jockey Gerard Galligan.

Out of the win, on firm turf in the midst of a dry fall, Mystic Strike's tendon sheath swelled again and McKenna wasn't sure there would be another start.

"It hadn't rained in a month, and I wasn't sure I wanted to run again," McKenna said. "Then I was like, 'Well, it is his last chance.' I've been training this horse for 10 years. I've looked at him and felt his legs for years. I was confident it wasn't a tendon, and it wasn't."

Back at the Virginia Fall host Glenwood Park in Middleburg due to course problems at Great Meadow, Mystic Strike wound up in a three-horse International Gold Cup timber stakes Oct. 27. He dominated, galloping off by 8 lengths over Druid's Altar (Ire) on hard turf as Anticipating went off course early.

"He ran great and I'm so happy his last hurrah ended up an easy race," McKenna said. "Schoodic scratched, Bogey's Image scratched, that horse went off course, but maybe he deserved one like that after a bunch of really tough races."

The $45,000 payday pushed Mystic Strike beyond Schoodic in the 2024 timber standings and into retirement with an NSA record of 30-13-8-2 and $289,400 earned – all of it over timber. For now, Mystic Strike won't notice much difference between racing and retirement.

"He'll hunt like he's always hunted, but maybe he'll become more of a calm hunter," said McKenna, a regular with the Unionville, Pa.-based Cheshire Foxhounds. "When he's not fully fit to race, he's a nice hunter but I was always using the hunting to get him fit to race and when got fit he wasn't the most fun."

What made timber racing work so well and last so long? McKenna isn't sure, but gave full credit to his horse.

"He's a good boy," the trainer said. "He's a Smart Strike; that line is so prolific and strong. The dam produced a ton of winners, it's no surprise really. He's been a real joy."

And though his flat career never reached the heights of his jump, Mystic Strike is still making people from his past proud.

"It's great, it's wonderful," said Phil Gleaves, who trained Mystic Strike through his first dozen starts for Vegso. "These horses can have great second careers, whether it's doing this or something else and I love to see it."

Mid-Atlantic Roots

Twice the leading sire in North America, Smart Strike sired 113 stakes winners (though that's probably flat only) and 12 champions so needs little introduction or explanation.

The timber champion's female family goes through the region, however, via his New Jersey-bred dam Mystic Rhythms. Bred by Rising Sun Farm, the daughter of Citidancer won five of nine starts including the 1995 Maryland Million Lassie and finished fourth in that year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies-G1. Mystic Rhythms' dam Timeandaword was bred in Maryland by Charles and Cynthia McGinnes. The daughter of Robellino sold for $10,000 as a yearling and lost her only two starts before producing seven winners.

Purchased by Vegso for $250,000 (in foal to Unbridled) in 2000, Mystic Rhythms produced 12 foals. All raced, nine won. In addition to Mystic Strike, her foals include stakes winners Mystic Chant (the dam of Grade 1 winner Voodoo Song) and Mystic Soul (dam of stakes-winning, graded stakes-placed Encryption) and stakes-placed Biorhythm. ■

The Steeplechase Times

24 for '24

STEEPLECHASE SEASON INCLUDED SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

By Sean Clancy ■ *Photographs by Tod Marks*

The 2024 National Steeplechase Association season wound to a close at the Aiken Steeplechase in South Carolina Nov. 23. A record purse structure, the revitalization of a bygone classic and a campaign for the ages by one of the sport's greats highlighted the year.

Take a tour, by the numbers.

DOUGLAS LEES

1 Irv Naylor. The seven-time champion owner surpassed 21-time champion Augustin Stable as the sport's leading earner. Led by champion mare Gold Charm (Ire) and Grade 1 winner Too Friendly (GB), Naylor finished third on the owners' list for the season with $476,050. The haul pushed the Marylander's career earnings to $9,479,902, rolling past Augustin's once Beamon-esque mark at the podium of the sport.

2 Two at the top. Jack Fisher and Leslie Young tied atop the trainers' standings with 29 wins. It was a third title for Young and the 15th for Fisher. Snap Decision won three times, including two Grade 1 stakes, for Fisher. Court Ruler (Ire) scored four times for Young, who won Grade 1 stakes with Rampoldi Plan and Too Friendly (GB). She opened a big lead in the spring and wound up sending out 157 starters. Fisher, with 117 starters, clawed it back and the duo went into the final day at Aiken tied. Cant Catch Camacho (Ire) scored in the opener for Young. The Fisher-trained Smart Uncle won the sixth by a half-length over Young's Walk The Warrior (Ire). Fisher launched two at the final race, Young countered with one, neither could land a blow and the title wound up a tie for the first time since Fisher deadlocked with Jonathan Sheppard in 2013.

3 And that makes three. Riding first call for Fisher, Graham Watters secured his third jockey championship in four years, winning 26 races, nine more than Jamie Bargary. With $1,256,150, Watters shattered Gus Brown's single-season earnings record of $815,897 set in 2001. Bargary, who won the first and second Grade 1 stakes of his career, also broke Brown's record. From Ireland's County Meath, Watters became the 43rd jockey to ride 100 winners in the U.S. "I sound like someone coming off the Mayflower back in the day. I came here without a penny in my pocket. I sold my car in England to pay for my visa. To go out this year and break a lot of records . . . the earnings record,

three-time champion jockey, 100 winners in the U.S. . . . My next goal is 200 winners and as many Grade 1s as I can."

4 Four horses, one for each mile of the race, reached the finish together in the Maryland Hunt Cup. Blackhall (Ire) and British-based rider Charlie Marshall won by a neck over Shootist with Goodoldtimes (Ire) third and two-time Hunt Cup winner Vintage Vinnie (Ire) fourth. The win satisfied a lifetime goal for the Kinross Farm of Virginians Zohar and Lisa Ben-Dov and secured the seventh win in the past eight editions of the timber classic for trainer Joe Davies.

JIM GRAHAM

5 Upland Flats Racing finished fifth in the owners' standings. Patrick Lewis' stable kept it diversified, winning a Grade 1 over hurdles with Freddy Flintshire and a Grade 3 on the flat with Red Carpet Ready.

6 Six horses lined up for the Grade 1 Colonial Cup in November. In an era when the sport continues to lose more race meets than it gains, the Colonial Cup returned to its November spot for the first time since 2016. The South Carolina tradition will team up with Aiken for a weekend finale in 2025. Welcome back, old friend.

7 Bolstered by four new Grade 1 stakes – the Commonwealth Cup at the Virginia Gold Cup, the Beverly R. Steinman at Aqueduct, the William H. Allison at the International Gold Cup and the Colonial Cup, annual purses set a record at $6,979,000.

8 Maryland-based Sean McDermott won eight races as a trainer and eight races as a jockey. Three-year-old champion Super Chunk, bred in Maryland by Vivian Rall, anchored McDermott's strong season, winning the inaugural Will O'Keefe Memorial at Virginia Fall. Another Maryland-bred, Who's Counting, added the Good Night Shirt handicap in April for owner/breeder South Branch Equine. McDermott the trainer also won two flat races on the year, one with Who's Counting.

9 Bruton Street-US won nine races and $588,200 to lead all owners. Led by Grade 1 winners by Snap Decision and Ziggle Pops (GB), the Maryland-based trio of Mike Hankin, Charlie Fenwick and Charlie Noell earned $106,500 more than Leipers Fork to win the owners' title for the fifth time. In 11 short years, Bruton Street-US has climbed to fifth on the all-time list.

10 Afraid Not won her first stakes in the 10th start of her life, dominating the Marion duPont Scott at Montpelier in November. Owned by Stonelea Farm and Bonnie Rye Farm, the daughter of Tourist capped off a strong fall season for Virginia-based trainer Julie Gomena. "That was a big thrill. She was headed to Kentucky to be bred, and I said to [husband] Robert, 'What if she wins a stake race?' Sure enough I get to keep her in training for next year. She is such a delight. She has the best attitude. She could be anything, a show horse, an event horse, a fox hunter. She has the most delightful attitude."

DOUGLAS LEES

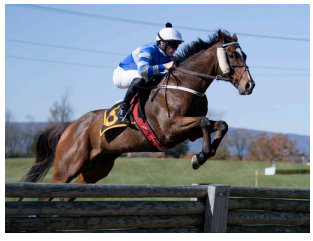
11 Eleven and three-eighths miles of races were canceled at the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup in November thanks to a severe drought in the region. Organizers of the iconic timber meet in Unionville faced the toughest question the sport faces. What is safe for the horses? Co-chairmen Michael and Anne Moran and director Andrea Collins made the right choice, even if it was difficult. The Steeplechase of Charleston made the same decision for the same reason a week later. Hopefully – with some much-needed rain – both will return in 2025.

12 Decisive Triumph turned 12 Jan. 1. Dan Baker's veteran won twice on the year, culminating in a tough handicap win at Aiken in November. Trained by Mark Beecher and ridden by champion apprentice Dan Nevin, the son of Kitten's Joy has earned a check in 24 of 27 starts over hurdles.

13 Trainer Liam Bourke won his first jump race in his 13th career start when Sawbuck Racing's Bellarmine Hall scored at Aiken in November. Bourke, 22, son of former jockey and trainer David, has been in the winner's circle with the likes of 2020 timber champion Curve of Stones, trained by his dad, but this one was his own. "It took a long time to get it, but there's not a better feeling. My parents [David and Renee] deserve all the recognition, without them, nothing gets done. They help me out the most. I was just really happy for the horse; it took a lot to get him to that point. I was a big part of Curve of Stones, I rode him every day before I went to school, but to have your name down is a way better feeling."

14 Fourteen-year-old Schoodic retired in October. The Jack Fisher trainee made at least one steeplechase start every season since 2013. Campaigned by breeder Edie Dixon and Fisher's parents John and Dolly Fisher, the son of Tiznow won 17 races, including a hurdle stakes at Saratoga in 2014 and the Virginia Gold Cup over timber in 2024, from 51 jump starts to retire as the 11th leading earner in history.

15 Mystic Strike walked off the stage at 15 after securing the 2024 timber championship for Upland Partners and trainer Todd McKenna. The son of Smart Strike won two of three starts for $79,500 in 2024. The gallant Florida-bred won 10 stakes over timber, capping his career with a win in the International Gold Cup.



16 Colonial Downs carded 16 races for steeplechase horses in 2024. Led by two $100,000 stakes for fillies and mares, the robust summer stance contributed to the record purse structure. Exculpate won the Randolph Rouse for owner/trainer Arch Kingsley Jr. while Gold Charm (GB) picked up the Life's Illusion for Irv Naylor and Cyril Murphy.

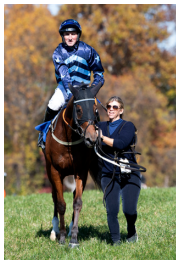
17 Snap Decision aims for his 17th jump win in 2025. His 16th came at Far Hills, N.J., in 2024. It was by far his most important. The best horse to never win a championship surely clinched his first Eclipse Award with a game win over Irish raider Galvin (Ire) in the $250,000 American Grand National-G1, the season's richest race and one that had escaped Snap Decision's grasp in three previous attempts. Owned by Bruton Street-US, trained by Fisher and ridden by Watters, the 10-year-old son of Hard Spun led all 2024 steeplechasers in earnings with $337,500 and was the only horse to win more than one Grade 1 all year. He also became the third American steeplechase horse to earn more than $1 million. With $1,131,900, Snap Decision sidled between three-time champion McDynamo and two-time champion Good Night Shirt. If you're counting, $178,204 separates the top two.

18 Maryland horseman Jim Steele paid $18,000 for King of the Kids in prominent flat owner Robert Lothenbach's dispersal sale in February. The son of Lemon Drop Kid broke his maiden in his third start for trainer Cyril Murphy at Aiken in November. Steele and his wife, Christie, were there for the celebration. "It's all Cyril. He brought the horse along and he brought my wife and I along. We had six horses we liked from that sale, a couple of them I didn't think I could afford and this horse I could afford. Back when I was younger, I had steeplechase horses. A long time ago I fox hunted, I showed, my wife was a better horse-show rider than I was. We grew up in a horse culture."

19 High octane. High Definition (Ire) finished 19th on the earnings list. The son of Galileo (Ire), third in the Group 1 Coronation Stakes at Epsom in 2022, won an allowance race at Middleburg in April and just missed in the Grand National in October. Owned by

Leipers Fork Steeplechasers and trained by Young, the lightly raced 6-year-old lost by two necks in the race of the year.

20 Starting late and ending early, jockey Stephen Mulqueen won 20 percent of his races. Previously based in Scotland, he arrived in May, winning two races at the Virginia Gold Cup. He broke his hand at the penultimate meet, the Colonial Cup, in November. The untimely injury certainly didn't diminish a season where he won three Grade 1 stakes for trainer Keri Brion. The final one came on upstart Carloun (Ire), winner of three straight for owner Paul Willis. Mulqueen solidified himself as one of the top jockeys on the circuit.



21 Bernie Dalton competed his 21st season. The Camden, S.C.-based horseman captured nine races to place fifth in the standings. Dalton and his wife, Kate, campaigned Abaan, winner of two novice stakes and fourth leading earner. With 120 career wins, Dalton climbed to 31st, between Chuck Lawrence and John Cushman, on the all-time list.

22 Due to rainouts, qualification restrictions and light inventory, just 22 starters lined up in three hurdle stakes at Saratoga Race Course over the summer.

23 Trainer Kathy Neilson won nine races, giving her 23 over the past three seasons. The Pennsylvania-based trainer won a novice stakes with the revitalized Westerland (GB) and finished fourth on the trainers' board.

24 Go on, mark your calendars. The return of the Fair Hill Races is "scheduled" for May 24, 2025. On hiatus since 2019 as the course was rebuilt, the Memorial Day weekend standard would be a welcome addition the schedule. Call it tentative and there are no guarantees in racing, but if you can't be an optimist in January, when can you be?

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Maryland Horse Breeders Association Inc.

321 Main Street
Reisterstown, MD 21136
410-252-2100
www.marylandthoroughbred.com

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Caprice, Tony Eclipse shine in Maryland Juvenile stakes

By Ali Çetinok

The Maryland Juvenile and Juvenile Fillies stakes races at Laurel Park Dec. 7 showcased the region's top 2-year-old talent in events that have for years been key steppingstones for young horses aiming for stardom.

Created in 1982, the Maryland Juvenile was the first $100,000 stakes for Maryland-breds and that first year hosted a mighty trio: future top sire Dixieland Band, Preakness Stakes-G1 winner Deputed Testamony and Belmont Stakes-G1 winner Caveat. The Juvenile Fillies came along four years later and counts Grade 1 winners Sham Say and Ask the Moon and Black-Eyed Susan Stakes-G2 winner Wide Country among its previous winners.

Neither race is quite what it was, but that did little to diminish the 2024 runnings as the Maryland-bred Tony Eclipse and Maryland-sired Caprice came through on a brisk day.

In the $100,000 Maryland Juvenile, The Elkstone Group's homebred Tony Eclipse delivered a commanding performance. Ridden by Jevian Toledo for trainer Brittany Russell, the Not This Time colt broke sharply and settled just off early leader Executive Order. As the

Jeffrey Snyder

Maryland-bred Tony Eclipse scores in the Maryland Juvenile at Laurel Park in December.

Jim McCue

Maryland-sired Caprice streaks home in the Maryland Juvenile Fillies.

field approached the turn, Toledo asked for more, and Tony Eclipse overtook Executive Order and extended the lead down the stretch. He crossed the wire 3¾ lengths ahead after 1:25.28 for 7 furlongs on a fast track.

The win marked Tony Eclipse's first stakes victory in his third attempt, building on a second in Delaware Park's Rocky Run in October and a solid third in Aqueduct's Nashua in November. Foaled at Elkstone owner Stuart Grant's C-Dog Farm in Chesapeake City, the chestnut finished fifth in his debut on the turf at Colonial Downs in August and won a maiden special weight on the dirt at Laurel in September.

At Keeneland November in 2021, Elkstone spent $140,000 to purchase unraced Tapit broodmare Tapits Faith, whose dam Let Faith Arise won a Grade 1 and a Grade 3 in California. The new addition to the broodmare band produced Tony Eclipse the following February and he made an early impression at the farm.

"Just like his mother, he always wanted to be noticed," said Bobby Goodyear, racing manager for Elkstone. "When you walked past his stall, he'd make sure you saw him. He wasn't a troublemaker, but he had a mischievous streak when he was learning. It's so rewarding to see it all come together.

"All the late nights, watching them grow – it's for moments like that. It never gets old, seeing a young horse put it all together."

At Keeneland September as a yearling in 2023, Tony Eclipse failed to meet his reserve at $300,000 and went to South Carolina for early training with Donna Freyer at Custom Care Equine.

"He was like a big kid in a man's body," said Freyer. "He had the size and energy early on, so it was about finding structure for him. Now, he's really putting it together."

One race earlier, Runnymoore Racing homebred Caprice put a cap on a banner season in the $100,000 Maryland Juvenile Fillies. Trained by Cal Lynch and ridden by Jaime Rodriguez, Caprice broke alertly and assumed control from the outset. Through fractions of :23.21 and :46.86, she held off her challengers through every stage and crossed the wire 1½ lengths ahead in 1:25.89 for 7 furlongs.

This victory – her fourth in a stakes and fifth in six starts overall – cemented Caprice's place among the region's 2-year-old fillies.

"She never seems tired after her races, which is incredible," said Caroline Bentley, who co-owns Runnymoore with her husband Greg. "We'll let her tell us what's next, but Maryland is such a well-structured program for horses like her."

Runnymoore foals its mares on the farm in Pennsylvania, but as Bentley suggested, Caprice's success is reflective of the strength of her breeding and her connections' commitment to the state's sire program. Her sire, Golden Lad stands at Northview Stallion Station in Chesapeake City and has built a reputation for producing fit, fast and durable offspring.

"Golden Lad stamps his foals – they're tight, athletic, and sound," said Greg Bentley. "Caprice has his looks and his demeanor, and that's been key to her success."

Caprice's dam Grand Folly, also plays a major role. A $32,000 Keeneland November purchase as a 4-year-old in 2017, the daughter of Street Cry (Ire) won once in 13 starts and lost her only start for the Bentleys but brought plenty of pedigree. Her dam Dance Away Capote earned $586,773 and won six stakes. Third dam Ingot Way produced Hall of Famer Skip Away among others.

Caprice made her first four starts at Delaware Park, but won the 6-furlong Smart Halo at Laurel Nov. 9 in her start before the Maryland Juvenile Fillies. The track's early 2025 stakes calendar offers a path to major races in the spring.

"Maryland is so well-structured for the development of 3-year-olds," Greg Bentley said. "The stakes at Laurel, with progressive distances, let horses like Caprice grow at a reasonable pace. She's versatile, consistent, and confident. Those are the traits that will carry her far." ❧

Registration questions?
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Call Emily at the MHBA office 410.252.2100 ext. 129

Maryland-bred Stakes Winners

Jaxon Traveler repeats in Zia Park Sprint Stakes

Jaxon Traveler returned to New Mexico Nov. 26 to defend his title in the $100,000 Zia Park Sprint Stakes and made it look easy, cruising home by 4¾ lengths at 1-20 odds while covering 6 furlongs in 1:07.79. It was a near carbon copy of his 5½-length score in 2023, which he completed in 1:07.37.

The West Point Thoroughbreds colorbearer, trained by Hall of Famer Steve Asmussen, won for the 12th time in 34 starts and boosted his earnings to $1,077,798. In his previous start, the David M. Vance Stakes at Remington Park in September, he became the 32nd Maryland-bred millionaire in history.

The son of Munnings, a nine-time stakes winner, won his third consecutive start. He entered 2025 off his most successful season financially, with $401,799 earned while recording additional stakes scores in the Whitmore-G3 at Oaklawn Park in March and Bill Thomas Memorial in February at Sunland Park. In July, he was second in the Iowa Sprint Stakes at Prairie Meadows. As of mid-December, he was working at Remington Park for a 7-year-old campaign.

The Maryland-bred champion at 2 after winning all three starts, including the Maryland Juvenile Futurity, repeated as a divisional champion at 3 when running exclusively in stakes and hitting the board in all nine, with victories in the Bachelor and Star de Naskra and Grade 3 placings with a second in Pimlico's Chick Lang and a third in Saratoga's Quick Call. He recorded his first graded win in 2022 in Pimlico's Grade 3 Maryland Sprint Stakes on Preakness Day.

Out of the After Market mare Listen Boy, Jaxon Traveler was bred by veterinarians Lenny and Pat Pineau at their farm in the Worthington Valley. Sold as a yearling at the 2019 Keeneland September sale for $80,000, he was a $140,000 pinhook for Grassroots Training and Sales at the OBS April 2-year-old sale, with West Point making the purchase.

Jaxon Traveler is one of six winners from six starters for Listen Boy, whose most recent foal is a chestnut yearling filly by Jack Christopher born last February. The mare was bred back to the same stallion. ❧

Ross Peddicord retires from MHIB

Friends and colleagues gathered the evening of Dec. 6 at the Maryland Horse Library and Education Center in Reisterstown to celebrate Ross Peddicord's send-off into retirement. The longtime horseman and journalist had, since 2011, been the executive director of the Maryland Horse Industry Board, a role that fit him perfectly as he promoted Maryland as a premier equestrian destination and advanced the state's equine industry.

Stories and many appreciations were shared, as well as commented on by Peddicord. His future plans include traveling, as well as a possibility of writing a book about his horse experiences. ❧

Anne Litz

UPCOMING

Maryland Horse Library Events

27 JAN 4:00 PM

Author Talk & Book Signing with Carol Fox

Longtime racing fan and Maryland breeder Carol Fox chronicles the careers of legendary Thoroughbreds Swaps and California Chrome in her debut novel *Three Gallant Hearts*. Compiling photographs, racing history, and interviews with Art Sherman, the book is a love letter to the sport and the horses that connect us.

1 FEB 2:00 PM

Opening of Keeneland Library's Traveling Exhibit

Keeneland Library Director and Exhibit Curator Roda Ferraro presents the traveling exhibit, "The Heart of the Turf: Racing's Black Pioneers." In a one-hour discussion, she details its creation, importance, and impact to open the exhibit's month-long stay at the Library.

24 FEB 4:00 PM

History and Impact of the Bill Pickett Rodeo

D/V Area Event Coordinator Greg Freeman introduces the Bill Pickett Rodeo, a 41-year-old traveling rodeo celebrating and honoring black cowboys and cowgirls. The rodeo is named for famed black cowboy Willie "Bill" Pickett, who invented the discipline "bulldogging," now known as steer wrestling.

24 MAR 5:00 PM

Film Showing: Hoof Dreams

This ninety-minute documentary by HBO filmmaker Jessie Deeter follows three female equestrians in their quest to become the first females to win individual eventing Olympic gold. The film was created over a period of six years and follows individual Olympic gold medalist Julia Krajewski (GER), Kentucky CCI5* winner Tamie Smith (USA) and 2016 Olympian and Central American Games gold medalist Lauren Billys Shady (PUR).

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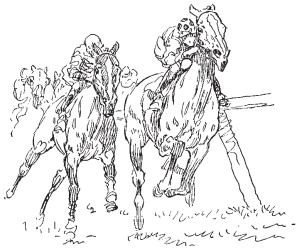

Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races run
in August and September 2024 at Maryland tracks

All Brandy Stakes

August 18. Purse $75,000-guaranteed. For 3-year-olds and up, fillies and mares, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland sired. 1 mi. (off turf). 6 competed. (Closed with 22 nominations) Winner: MALIBU BEAUTY, by Buffum. Breeder bonus: ZWP Stable and Non Stop Stable ($10,125). Stallion bonus: Buffum Syndicate ($3,375). Second: BELLA BETTINA, by Midshipman. Breeder bonus: Daniel E. Marconi ($3,375). Stallion bonus: None. Third: ONE SILK STOCKING, by Lord Nelson. Breeder bonus: Country Life Farm and Keep Right LLC ($1,687.50). Stallion bonus: None.

Find Stakes

August 18. Purse $75,000-guaranteed. For 3-year-olds and up, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland sired. 1 mi. (off turf). 5 competed. (Closed with 21 nominations) Winner: RICCIO, by Cross Traffic. Breeder bonus: Glenangus Farm LLC ($10,125). Stallion bonus: None. Second: HUNTER JOE, by Palace Malice. Breeder bonus: Lewis Family Racing Stable ($3,375). Stallion bonus: None. Third: WICKED PRANKSTER, by Mosler. Breeder bonus: Country Life Farm and Broken Trust Fund LLC ($1,687.50). Stallion bonus: Mosler Syndicate ($562.50).

Breeder bonuses

Includes the additional 10 percent Maryland-sired bonus for winners of maiden races, initiated Jan. 1 during the 2022 Laurel winter meet. That bonus is reflected in the second figure earned for the race.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—Fire and Knives: Sept. 20, 10th race, $1,170. She'sarollingstone: Sept. 15, 7th race, $1,305. Vance Scholars: Sept. 13, 9th race, $1,260. ($3,735)

Anchor and Hope Farm and Leigh Finney—Landslide Is Home: Aug. 18, 1st race, $3,510; Aug. 31, 10th race, $2,025. ($5,535)

Victor Bahna, Jr.—Chinny Tin Tin: Sept. 2, 4th race, $2,700. Flinny Tin Tin: Aug. 23, 1st race, $2,430. ($5,130)

William Robert Bailes—Anlon: Aug. 3, 4th race, $6,345.

Sharon Banford—Red Hat Hanna: Aug. 30, 1st race, $4,860.

Barak Farm—Always Forward: Aug. 24, 4th race, $2,025; Sept. 1, 9th race, $495. Enemynumbernine: Sept. 29, 3rd race, $742.50. Fivecommatwo: Aug. 2, 5th race, $3,510; Sept. 21, 8th race, $4,320. Hateful: Aug. 4, 1st race, $1,170. Lady Mosler: Aug. 2, 5th race, $1,170. ($13,432.50)

Barak Farm and Dinos Thoroughbreds LLC—Isabella's Glory: Aug. 30, 8th race, $5,940; Sept. 15, 7th race, $3,915. Shkhara Fire: Sept. 15, 9th race, $2,205. Skip Thru Da Fire: Aug. 17, 2nd race, $495. ($12,555)

Barak Farm and Sharon Dodgen—Backnthewoods: Aug. 30, 5th race, $3,645. U Know When U Know: Sept. 13, 10th race, $6,345. ($9,990)

David Baxter Sr.—Miss Harriett: Sept. 27, 9th race, $7,560.

Patricia Beck and Richard C. Beck—Daily Planet: Aug. 10, 7th race, $652.50. Hiya Love: Sept. 13, 7th race, $2,115. ($2,767.50)

Joseph Besecker—All the Way: Aug. 3, 2nd race, $3,510. Kilo Road: Aug. 4, 4th race, $2,160. ($5,670)

Teresa L. Beste—Navani: Sept. 27, 5th race, $3,510.

Charles Blanford—Beautiful Blome: Aug. 10, 4th race, $5,535/$1,845. Go Sherry Go: Sept. 22, 6th race, $2,160. ($9,540)

Bonita Farm—Hittheroadjak: Aug. 31, 8th race, $5,940. Juniper Juice: Sept. 13, 6th race, $6,615. Kobe's Smile: Sept. 7, 2nd race, $4,455; Sept. 21, 8th race, $1,080. ($18,090)

William T. Bourne—Mister Mitch: Aug. 10, 3rd race, $6,345/$2,115. ($8,460)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—Blue Kingdom: Sept. 28, 2nd race, $2,205. Old Bay: Sept. 22, 6th race, $1,080. Proper Attire: Aug. 3, 6th race, $3,240. Quiet Dancer: Sept. 1, 4th race, $450. Right Quick: Aug. 18, 2nd race, $2,970/$990. ($10,935)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Feelin So Lucky: Aug. 10, 1st race, $1,845. What Does It Take: Aug. 2, 8th race, $2,385. ($4,230)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Dr. Brooke Bowman and Estate of Milton P. Higgins III—Post Time: Sept. 14, 10th race, $13,500.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Quin Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Clubman: Aug. 24, 6th race, $495.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Nami: Aug. 31, 2nd race, $675.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Shawn M. Howser—Bourbon Wildcat: Aug. 2, 6th race, $652.50.

Bowman and Higgins Stable—Congress Hall: Sept. 1, 2nd race, $337.50. K Kake Pop: Aug. 4, 1st race, $3,510. Laughing Fit: Sept. 13, 8th race, $1,485. Super Accelerate: Sept. 8, 8th race, $2,205. ($7,537.50)

Bowman and Higgins Stable and Cary Frommer—Monday Morning Qb: Aug. 11, 3rd race, $3,915. Sept. 15, 3rd race, $4,995. ($8,910)

Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood F. Bryant—Northern Tick Tock: Sept. 15, 2nd race, $3,510.

Rick Buckley—Ecumenical: Sept. 28, 10th race, $1,383.75.

William Andrew Campbell—Bad Temper: Aug. 10, 9th race, $450.

Louis C. Carrico—Andras: Sept. 20, 5th race, $990. Nancy Mary: Sept. 21, 5th race, $922.50. ($1,912.50)

Wes Carter—El Divino Nino: Aug. 25, 3rd race, $495; Aug. 31, 4th race, $810. Had to Have Him: Sept. 7, 8th race, $7,560. ($8,865)

Chanceland Farm—Italian War Cry: Sept. 2, 3rd race, $3,780/$1,260. ($5,040)

Maria Charles-Remedio—Military Grade: Sept. 29, 8th race, $742.50.

Angela B. Coombs—Catahoula Moon: Aug. 16, 9th race, $1,192.50.

Cottonwood Stable LLC—Seven's Eleven: Aug. 23, 4th race, $1,215; Sept. 7, 7th race, $7,560. ($8,775)

Country Life Farm and Basedonatruestory LLC—Sheherhers: Aug. 24, 4th race, $675.

Country Life Farm and Broken Trust Fund LLC—Wicked Prankster: Aug. 18, 11th race, $1,687.50.

Country Life Farm and Fifteen Moons LLC—Ariel Moon: Aug. 16, 10th race, $1,485; Sept. 2, 1st race, $1,260; Sept. 27, 10th race, $1,170. ($3,915)

Country Life Farm and Fleet and Fancy LLC—Next Girl: Aug. 11, 6th race, $6,480; Sept. 13, 6th race, $1,102.50. ($7,582.50)

Country Life Farm and Huron Racing Ventures LLC—Sir Mick: Aug. 31, 1st race, $3,780.

Country Life Farm and Imagistic Broodmare II LLC—Sweet Talia: Sept. 21, 4th race, $765.

Country Life Farm and Keep Right LLC—One Silk Stocking: Aug. 18, 9th race, $1,687.50.

Country Life Farm, Sue Ann Mancilla and Susan Scheffres—Divine Child: Sept. 21, 9th race, $1,080.

Country Life Farm and Real Good Time LLC—Bill of Rights: Aug. 3, 3rd race, $1,170; Sept. 29, 1st race, $742.50. ($1,912.50)

Country Life Farm and Rock Sapphire LLC—Sapphire Beauty: Sept. 13, 4th race, $765; Sept. 29, 2nd race, $765. ($1,530)

Country Life Farm and Watrugonnadorosie LLC—Hanksdiviningrod: Aug. 17, 9th race, $1,845.

Country Life Farm and Winding Creek Farm—Luv Ya Bye Bye: Aug. 3, 1st race, $2,295.

CRK Stable LLC—Excellorator: Aug. 23, 4th race, $7,290; Sept. 13, 9th race, $2,520. ($9,810)

Crystal Park Stables Inc.—Brilliant Ice: Aug. 11, 7th race, $2,520.

Dark Hollow Farm—Circle Home: Sept. 14, 8th race, $2,250. Haleigh B: Aug. 18, 8th race, $3,915. Pudd'n N Pie: Aug. 10, 6th race, $1,485. Snack: Aug. 31, 3rd race, $630. ($8,280)

Dark Hollow Farm, D. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. David Schwaber, et al—Daze: Sept. 13, 7th race, $6,345.

Dark Hollow Farm and Hillwood Stable LLC—Silver Trinket: Aug. 10, 4th race, $1,845.

Cynthia J. Darrah-Hipple—Lady Zeta: Sept. 7, 9th race, $1,192.50.

Rebecca B. Davis—Great Andrei: Aug. 31, 9th race, $5,940.

John C. Davison—Mile High Miracle: Aug. 17, 7th race, $1,170; Aug. 25, 4th race, $810. War Master: Sept. 21, 2nd race, $1,485. ($3,465)

Designated Hitters Racing—Omar Comin: Aug. 3, 5th race, $495; Sept. 2, 7th race, $2,430. ($2,925)

David M. DiPietro—Little Josie Wales: Aug. 10, 6th race, $742.50; Sept. 22, 1st race, $585. One Way Traffic: Aug. 30, 9th race, $1,305. ($2,632.50)

George L. Doetsch—Big Wanda: Aug. 16, 10th race, $4,455.

Dr. Morgan Dove and Karin Wurttemberger—Doris' Slaying It: Sept. 2, 1st race, $3,780/$1,260. ($5,040)

Hassan Elamri—Golden Can: Sept. 8, 3rd race, $540.

Mark Erlandson—Feather Wish: Sept. 7, 1st race, $585.

Annette Eubanks and Daniel Eubanks—Band Camp: Aug. 24, 7th race, $5,940; Sept. 22, 7th race, $2,385. Stormy Irish Lass: Sept. 1, 4th race, $900; Sept. 22, 10th race, $2,970/$990. ($13,185)

Steve R. Ferguson—Lady Charlotte: Sept. 20, 4th race, $495.

Flying H Stables LLC—Stellars in Charge: Sept. 1, 1st race, $2,025.

Charles A. Frock—Riley's Cry Baby: Aug. 23, 3rd race, $450.

Ruby Mae Gaddis—Quality Weekend: Sept. 27, 10th race, $3,510/$1,170. ($4,680)

Robert J. Gerczak—Antipoison: Sept. 1, 6th race, $2,025. Caribbean Pleasure: Sept. 2, 8th race, $990. Mat Matters: Aug. 18, 6th race, $742.50. Sultry Sally H: Aug. 30, 7th race, $2,970. ($6,727.50)

Glenangus Farm LLC—Riccio: Aug. 18, 11th race, $10,125. Starlifter: Aug. 17, 11th race, $922.50; Sept. 28, 3rd race, $6,345/$2,115. Studlydoright: Sept. 28, 9th race, $4,500. ($24,007.50)

GreenMount Farm and Tiznow Syndicate—Molly of Stratford: Aug. 30, 2nd race, $810; Sept. 8, 6th race, $2,970. ($3,780)

Maria M. Haire—Doc Linkous: Aug. 18, 6th race, $4,455; Sept. 21, 9th race, $2,160. Get Like Mike: Aug. 11, 1st race, $2,970; Aug. 30, 9th race, $652.50. Stormy Midnight: Aug. 4, 2nd race, $585; Sept. 22, 4th race, $1,170. ($11,992.50)

Michael J. Harrison DVM—Sunny Sunshine: Sept. 1, 4th race, $2,700/$900. ($3,600)

Herringswell Stables Ltd.—Anotherhope: Aug. 16, 5th race, $1,485.

James Hibbert—Cactus: Aug. 17, 1st race, $3,510.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Holt and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Palumbo—Chat Blanc: Sept. 7, 3rd race, $2,970.

Michael and Debbie Horning—Minime: Aug. 16, 2nd race, $2,970.

Horseshoe Valley Equine Center LLC—Any Fools Gold: Aug. 2, 9th race, $585; Aug. 24, 9th race, $1,890/$630; Sept. 22, 3rd race, $585. ($3,690)

Jagger Inc.—Coastalness: Aug. 23, 3rd race, $2,700/$900. Guaponess: Aug. 25, 7th race, $495. Little Lance: Aug. 18, 10th race, $6,615; Aug. 31, 8th race, $1,980. Paco the Taco Man: Sept. 8, 4th race, $765; Sept. 29, 6th race, $990. Parkerness: Aug. 23, 8th race, $1,980. Silverbullettwenty: Aug. 16, 1st race, $585. ($17,010)

Jagger Inc. and Super C Racing Inc.—Peachyness: Aug. 16, 5th race, $4,455/$1,485. ($5,940)

Jayne Johnson and Mike Tomlinson—Bajan Boy: Sept. 1, 10th race, $315.

R. Larry Johnson—Call Another Play: Aug. 4, 6th race, $4,500. Class Wizard: Aug. 16, 1st race, $3,510. Energy Efficient: Aug. 17, 4th race, $3,510. Jumpingjaggerflash: Sept. 1, 3rd race, $337.50. Mr Jefferson: Aug. 10, 2nd race, $585. Naval Empire: Sept. 21, 8th race, $4,320. Street Copper: Sept. 15, 6th race, $652.50. Street Tough: Aug. 24, 3rd race, $675. ($18,090)

Hope Haskell Jones—Shine On Moon: Aug. 11, 6th race, $2,160.

Karmac Stables LLC—Frosty Maya: Aug. 30, 3rd race, $675.

Carol A. Kaye—Elon: Aug. 10, 3rd race, $2,115.

Steven D. Keil and Caitlin Keil—Aliferous: Sept. 27, 3rd race, $1,080.

Dr. Megan Kerford DVM and Justin J. Nixon—Sheilahs Warcloud: Sept. 22, 6th race, $6,480.

Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—Buckin' Dreamer: Aug. 3, 3rd race, $3,510. Osa: Sept. 20, 1st race, $1,170. ($4,680)

Carl Lanier—Box N Ben: Aug. 11, 1st race, $990; Aug. 31, 4th race, $2,430. Mosler Time: Sept. 7, 5th race, $6,615. ($10,035)

Leaf Stable—Laddie Dance: Aug. 17, 7th race, $3,510/$1,170. Sept. 27, 1st race, $585. ($5,265)

Estate of Fred T. Lewis Sr. DVM—Celtic Contender: Sept. 21, 9th race, $6,480. Katie's Notion: Aug. 17, 1st race, $1,170; Sept. 20, 6th race, $3,510. Landon Jack: Sept. 1, 1st race, $337.50. ($11,497.50)

Lewis Family Racing Stable—Hunter Joe: Aug. 18, 11th race, $3,375.

Little Man Farm—Benny Havens: Sept. 21, 6th race, $2,160. Tidewater: Aug. 16, 6th race, $2,385. ($4,545)

Eric Y. Long—Mission Artemis: Aug. 25, 2nd race, $5,670/$1,890. ($7,560)

LRM Stable LLC—Gold Digging Broad: Sept. 29, 9th race, $2,385.

Make My Day Stable—Agent Kelly: Sept. 20, 3rd race, $1,170.

Sue Ann Mancilla and Susan Scheffres—Diamond Sue: Sept. 15, 1st race, $2,115.

Estate of Robert T. Manfuso—Dazzy: Aug. 4, 4th race, $1,080.

Marathon Farm Inc.—Circle P: Sept. 8, 8th race, $6,615; Sept. 27, 6th race, $2,385. ($9,000)

Daniel E. Marconi—Bella Bettina: Aug. 18, 9th race, $3,375; Sept. 27, 9th race, $2,520. ($5,895)

Helen C. Marshall—The Big Enchilada: Aug. 18, 5th race, $4,455.

Peter D. Mattson—Angelofcanterbury: Aug. 30, 4th race, $1,980. Bythenumbers: Aug. 25, 1st race, $675. ($2,655)

MCA Racing Stable LLC—A B C Ya: Sept. 20, 5th race, $495.

Charles C.D. McGill—Disputed Claim: Aug. 18, 10th race, $2,205.

James F. McIngvale—Restless: Aug. 31, 4th race, $405.

Ann Warfield Merryman and Richard F. Blue Jr.—Gift of Gab: Aug. 2, 7th race, $2,205; Sept. 14, 6th race, $6,615. ($8,820)

Mezza Luna Farm LLC—In the Dance: Sept. 2, 7th race, $810; Sept. 27, 2nd race, $2,970. ($3,780)

Mike Dalton LLC—Quincannon: Aug. 10, 8th race, $1,080.

Murmur Farm—Bonded: Aug. 24, 6th race, $990. Golden Charm: Aug. 4, 5th race, $2,385. Mister Agent: Sept. 20, 2nd race, $3,510. Persian: Sept. 21, 5th race, $1,845. ($8,730)

Nancy Lee Farms—Margaret P: Sept. 2, 3rd race, $630; Sept. 28, 4th race, $585. ($1,215)

No Guts No Glory Farm—Banditsgoldenchild: Sept. 2, 8th race, $1,980. Bigdaddysboy: Aug. 23, 9th race, $810; Sept. 13, 1st race, $2,970; Sept. 29, 6th race, $2,970. Do It for Michael: Sept. 14, 5th race, $6,615. Dream River: Aug. 23, 9th race, $2,430; Sept. 13, 1st race, $990. G's Fireball: Aug. 24, 4th race, $337.50. General J R: Sept. 13, 3rd race, $2,970. Green Eyed Monster: Aug. 25, 5th race, $3,780/$1,260. Irish Bandit: Sept. 29, 6th race, $495. Irish Hero: Aug. 23, 6th race, $1,980; Sept. 2, 8th race, $5,940. Itsamonstamash: Aug. 23, 5th race, $945. Remember Me: Aug. 17, 6th race, $990; Sept. 1, 7th race, $810. ($38,272.50)

Clarke Ohrstrom—Dead Sexy: Aug. 17, 3rd race, $1,845; Sept. 8, 1st race, $922.50. Granuaile: Sept. 14, 4th race, $922.50. Holey Moley: Sept. 20, 10th race, $3,510/$1,170. Jardani: Aug. 10, 8th race, $2,160. Poggibonsi: Aug. 30, 6th race, $1,980. ($12,510)

Charles V. Parker—Mose Perfect: Aug. 16, 7th race, $1,080.

Ronald Harris Parker—Malibu Hooch: Aug. 23, 5th race, $5,670/$1,890; Sept. 15, 9th race, $1,102.50 ($8,662.50)

David W. Palmer—Designer: Sept. 14, 4th race, $5,535. Kissling: Aug. 25, 8th race, $5,670. Preparefortakeoff: Sept. 13, 4th race, $2,295. ($13,500)

A. Leonard Pineau—Crossland: Aug. 18, 7th race, $6,615.

Ponder Hill Inc.—Barzini: Aug. 16, 6th race, $1,192.50.

Vivian E. Rall—Great Idea: Sept. 8, 7th race, $6,615; Sept. 21, 6th race, $6,480. ($13,095)

Valter J. Ramos—Speightster's Star: Aug. 23, 7th race, $945.

R.C. Park Racing Stable Inc.—Pure Realization: Aug. 31, 3rd race, $1,890.

Charles J. Reed—Johnyz From Albany: Aug. 11, 4th race, $2,520.

Charles Jerome Reed and Henry Hoke—Party Monster: Sept. 21, 4th race, $382.50.

Jay A. Reese—Sinetic: Sept. 15, 8th race, $1,057.50.

Randy Ridgely—Dubai Fire: Aug. 3, 2nd race, $585.

Nancy M. Rizer and Eric A. Rizer—Say Me True: Sept. 15, 5th race, $6,345/$2,115. ($8,460)

Rolling Meadows Farm—Bond's Belle: Aug. 2, 4th race, $585; Sept. 2, 3rd race, $1,260; Sept. 22, 10th race, $990. Irish Angel: Aug. 24, 9th race, $630. Summerinthecountry: Aug. 25, 2nd race, $945. Summerstateofmind: Aug. 3, 5th race, $2,970. ($7,380)

Thomas Rooney—Coffeewithchris: Sept. 27, 4th race, $1,192.50.

Timothy J. Rooney—Pietrelcina: Aug. 16, 3rd race, $742.50; Sept. 21, 3rd race, $742.50. Stoney: Sept. 15, 5th race, $2,115. ($3,600)

Alexandro Rubim-Dias—Flying to Neptune: Sept. 1, 8th race, $5,670.

Edward A. Seltzer and Justin J. Nixon—Lil Sebastian: Sept. 28, 10th race, $5,535.

Shamrock Farm—Barbadian Runner: Sept. 14, 5th race, $2,205. Curb: Sept. 1, 8th race, $1,890. ($4,095)

Janice Sinatra—S S Sinatra: Aug. 3, 8th race, $6,615; Sept. 21, 6th race, $1,080. ($7,695)

Franklin G. Smith Sr.—Spencerian: Aug. 10, 6th race, $4,455; Sept. 2, 6th race, $5,940. ($10,395)

James Claude Smith Jr.—Smitten Enough: Sept. 7, 10th race, $540.

South Branch Equine LLC—Who's Counting: Sept. 7, 6th race, $6,615.

James B. Steele Jr.—Hampden Lane: Aug. 11, 1st race, $495. My Endeavor: Sept. 2, 4th race, $900. ($1,395)

Super C Racing Inc.—Dance for Green: Sept. 20, 2nd race, $1,170. Kissedbyanangel: Sept. 28, 7th race, $2,385. ($3,555)

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Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Artistic Reason: Aug. 16, 7th race, $3,240. Dulce Kiara: Sept. 8, 3rd race, $3,240. Feeling Woozy: Aug. 11, 7th race, $1,260; Sept. 7, 7th race, $1,260. First to Arrive: Aug. 30, 1st race, $810. Frightland: Aug. 2, 8th race, $1,192.50. Goodafternoonoscar: Aug. 31, 8th race, $990; Sept. 27, 4th race, $7,155. John Hall: Aug. 2, 2nd race, $3,240; Sept. 21, 7th race, $652.50. Lovely Charm: Sept. 2, 6th race, $1,980. Whiteknuckleflyer: Sept. 8, 3rd race, $1,080. ($26,100)

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC and Ellen Charles—Closertotheheart: Aug. 17, 6th race, $495. Society Ball: Aug. 11, 6th race, $1,080. ($1,575)

Thomas L. Teal—Rad Paisley: Aug. 25, 7th race, $990; Sept. 29, 7th race, $3,240. ($4,230)

James F. Thames—Run Rocky Run: Sept. 2, 4th race, $450.

The Elkstone Group LLC—Cap Com: Aug. 10, 8th race, $6,480; Sept. 7, 5th race, $1,102.50. Cover the Spread: Sept. 27, 5th race, $585. Lifelovenlaughter: Sept. 29, 9th race, $1,192.50. Monster Mason: Sept. 29, 7th race, $540. Oncourtcommentator: Aug. 18, 3rd race, $6,615. Prince of Portland: Aug. 31, 6th race, $675. Solving Progress: Sept. 20, 4th race, $990. Tony Eclipse: Sept. 14, 3rd race, $6,345. Vax a Nation: Sept. 7, 6th race, $2,205; Sept. 27, 7th race, $2,205. ($28,935)

Thornmar Farm LLC—Admit Nothing: Aug. 18, 4th race, $2,970. At First Sight: Aug. 11, 8th race, $3,510. Canoodle: Aug. 30, 7th race, $495. Chochocho: Sept. 1, 10th race, $1,890. Fear Nothing: Aug. 4, 9th race, $1,485; Aug. 24, 2nd race, $630; Sept. 22, 2nd race, $1,170. Forgotten Gift: Aug. 3, 6th race, $1,080; Aug. 24, 5th race, $990; Sept. 1, 7th race, $2,430. General Maximus: Sept. 28, 10th race, $1,383.75. Goodbye Note: Aug. 23, 8th race, $5,940; Sept. 22, 7th race, $1,192.50. Little Bit Risky: Aug. 24, 2nd race, $3,780/$1,260; Sept. 14, 5th race, $1,102.50. Lost Weekend: Aug. 23, 9th race, $405; Sept. 1, 3rd race, $2,025. Nearly a Lady: Sept. 7, 1st race, $1,170. Tall Order: Sept. 20, 6th race, $585. Watch Out World: Aug. 25, 4th race, $4,860. Who Says So: Sept. 29, 8th race, $1,485. Wish Me Home: Aug. 16, 4th race, $4,995; Sept. 15, 6th race, $1,305. ($48,138.75)

Thornmar Farm and Tim Keefe—Too Many Kisses: Sept. 14, 7th race, $2,205.

2500 Determined Holdings—Christy My Love: Sept. 21, 5th race, $5,535. Determined Blue: Sept. 22, 3rd race, $3,510. ($9,045)

Walter N. Vieser II—Intel Agent: Aug. 16, 10th race, $742.50; Sept. 27, 10th race, $585. ($1,327.50)

Katharine Merryman Voss—Go Round: Aug. 16, 5th race, $742.50. Viennese Waltz: Aug. 18, 3rd race, $1,102.50. ($1,845)

Lee H. Vosters—Guardian Prince: Aug. 23, 8th race, $990.

Maureen Wade—Buoyant: Sept. 29, 8th race, $4,455. Honor the Truth: Sept. 2, 6th race, $990. Play Like a Raven: Sept. 8, 8th race, $1,102.50; Sept. 28, 2nd race, $6,615. ($13,162.50)

Susan Wantz—Divine Fashion: Sept. 1, 9th race, $2,970. Gatto Be Proud: Aug. 17, 9th race, $922.50; Sept. 27, 7th race, $1,102.50. Harmonizing: Aug. 4, 2nd race, $3,510; Aug. 11, 2nd race, $585. He's On Fire: Aug. 31, 10th race, $337.50. ($9,427.50)

Warning Drums Racing LLC—Diane Lee: Aug. 2, 1st race, $2,115. Good Knight Nile: Sept. 15, 2nd race, $1,170. ($3,285)

Dr. and Mrs. Bruce C. Wells—Running River: Aug. 3, 9th race, $765; Sept. 14, 1st race, $765. ($1,530)

Edward N. Williams and Mike Mattese—Casey N Pap: Aug. 25, 2nd race, $1,890.

John E. Williamson III—Mysisternancy: Sept. 1, 2nd race, $2,025. Stickwiththecolors: Aug. 4, 4th race, $6,480. ($8,505)

WWCD LLC—Danni's Rhythm: Aug. 10, 4th race, $922.50. Mattitude: Aug. 24, 8th race, $1,687.50; Sept. 27, 9th race, $1,260. ($3,870)

ZWP Stable and Non Stop Stable—Malibu Beauty: Aug. 4, 7th race, $13,500; Aug. 18, 9th race, $10,125. ($23,625)

Stallion bonuses

ALLIANCE (Agent Kelly: Sept. 20, 3rd race, $390): Lawrence Karp.

BALTIMORE BOB (Sultry Sally H: Aug. 30, 7th race, $990): Robert Gerczak.

BANDBOX (Band Camp: Aug. 24, 7th race, $1,980; Sept. 22, 7th race, $795. Box N Ben: Aug. 11, 1st race, $330; Aug. 31, 4th race, $810. Dulce Kiara: Sept. 8, 3rd race, $1,080. Forgotten Gift: Aug. 3, 6th race, $360; Aug. 24, 5th race, $330; Sept. 1, 7th race, $810. Mister Mitch: Aug. 10, 3rd race, $2,115. Paco the Taco Man: Sept. 8, 4th race, $255; Sept. 29, 6th race, $330. Seven's Eleven: Aug. 23, 4th race, $405; Sept. 7, 7th race, $2,520): Northview Stallion Station—$12,120.

BARBADOS (Bajan Boy: Sept. 1, 10th race, $105. Barbadian Runner: Sept. 14, 5th race, $735. Caribbean Pleasure: Sept. 2, 8th race, $330. Curb: Sept. 1, 8th race, $630. Hampden Lane: Aug. 11, 1st race, $165. Hateful: Aug. 4, 1st race, $390. Mat Matters: Aug. 18, 6th race, $247.50. My Endeavor: Sept. 2, 4th race, $300): Shamrock Farm—$2,902.50.

BLOFELD (Beautiful Blome: Aug. 10, 4th race, $1,845. Bond's Belle: Aug. 2, 4th race, $195; Sept. 2, 3rd race, $420; Sept. 22, 10th race, $330. Bonded: Aug. 24, 6th race, $330. Chat Blanc: Sept. 7, 3rd race, $990. Golden Charm: Aug. 4, 5th race, $795. Goodbye Note: Aug. 23, 8th race, $1,980; Sept. 22, 7th race, $397.50. Johnyz From Albany: Aug. 11, 4th race, $840. Miss Harriett: Sept. 27, 9th race, $2,520. Mister Agent: Sept. 20, 2nd race, $1,170. Persian: Sept. 21, 5th race, $615. Quality Weekend: Sept. 27, 10th race, $1,170): Blofeld Syndicate—$13,597.50.

BOURBON COURAGE (Bourbon Wildcat: Aug. 2, 6th race, $217.50. G's Fireball: Aug. 24, 4th race, $112.50. Malibu Hooch: Aug. 23, 5th race, $1,890; Sept. 15, 9th race, $367.50. She'sarollingstone: Sept. 15, 7th race, $435. Shine on Moon: Aug. 11, 6th race, $720. Sunny Sunshine: Sept. 1, 4th race, $900): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$4,642.50.

BUFFUM (Malibu Beauty: Aug. 4, 7th race, $4,500; Aug. 18, 9th race, $3,375. Quincannon: Aug. 10, 8th race, $360): Buffum Syndicate—$8,235.

CUBA (Diamond Sue: Sept. 15, 1st race, $705): J&S Stables LLC.

DIVINING ROD (Dazzy: Aug. 4, 4th race, $360. Divine Child: Sept. 21, 9th race, $360. Divine Fashion: Sept. 1, 9th race, $990. Fear Nothing: Aug. 4, 9th race, $495; Aug. 24, 2nd race, $210; Sept. 22, 2nd race, $390. Hanksdiviningrod: Aug. 17, 9th race, $615. Mile High Miracle: Aug. 17, 7th race, $390; Aug. 25, 4th race, $270. Next Girl: Aug. 11, 6th race, $2,160. Sept. 13, 6th race, $367.50. Party Monster: Sept. 21, 4th race, $127.50. Sheherhers: Aug. 24, 4th race, $225. Stickwiththecolors: Aug. 4, 4th race, $2,160. Sweet Talia: Sept. 21, 4th race, $255): Divining Rod Syndicate—$9,345.

EDITORIAL (Daily Planet: Aug. 10, 7th race, $217.50. Right Quick: Aug. 18, 2nd race, $990): Climax Stallions LLC—$1,207.50.

FIRST MONDAYS (Blue Kingdom: Sept. 28, 2nd race, $735. Starlifter: Aug. 17, 11th race, $307.50; Sept. 28, 3rd race, $2,115): R. First Mondays Partnership—$3,157.50.

FORCE THE PASS (Had to Have Him: Sept. 7, 8th race, $2,520. One Way Traffic: Aug. 30, 9th race, $435): Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC—$2,955.

FRIESAN FIRE (Dubai Fire: Aug. 3, 2nd race, $195. He's On Fire: Aug. 31, 10th race, $112.50. Landon Jack: Sept. 1, 1st race, $112.50. Shkhara Fire: Sept. 15, 9th race, $735. Skip Thru da Fire: Aug. 17, 2nd race, $165): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$1,320.

GOLDEN LAD (Any Fools Gold: Aug. 2, 9th race, $195; Aug. 24, 9th race, $630; Sept. 22, 3rd race, $195. Banditsgoldenchild: Sept. 2, 8th race, $660. Catahoula Moon: Aug. 16, 9th race, $397.50. Danni's Rhythm: Aug. 10, 4th race, $307.50. Disputed Claim: Aug. 18, 10th race, $735. Go Sherry Go: Sept. 22, 6th race, $720. Golden Can: Sept. 8, 3rd race, $180. Itsamonstamash: Aug. 23, 5th race, $315. Kissedbyanangel: Sept. 28, 7th race, $795. Laddie Dance: Aug. 17, 7th race, $1,170; Sept. 27, 1st race, $195. Old Bay: Sept. 22, 6th race, $360. Omar Comin: Aug. 3, 5th race, $165; Sept. 2, 7th race, $810. Tell Me True: Sept. 15, 5th race, $2,115. The Big Enchilada: Aug. 18, 5th race, $1,485): Golden Lad Syndicate—$11,430.

GREAT NOTION (At First Sight: Aug. 11, 8th race, $1,170. Brilliant Ice: Aug. 11, 7th race, $840. Closertotheheart: Aug. 17, 6th race, $165. Doris' Slaying It: Sept. 2, 1st race, $1,260. Elon: Aug. 10, 3rd race, $705. Great Idea: Sept. 8, 7th race, $2,205; Sept. 21, 6th race, $2,160. Intel Agent: Aug. 16, 10th race, $247.50; Sept. 27, 10th race, $195. Katie's Notion: Aug. 17, 1st race, $390; Sept. 20, 6th race, $1,170. Lady Charlotte: Sept. 20, 4th race, $165. Little Bit Risky: Aug. 24, 2nd race, $1,260; Sept. 14, 5th race, $367.50. Little Josie Wales: Aug. 10, 6th race, $247.50; Sept. 22, 1st race, $195. Lost Weekend: Aug. 23, 9th race, $135; Sept. 1, 3rd race, $675. Mattitude: Aug. 24, 8th race, $562.50; Sept. 27, 9th race, $420. Peachyness: Aug. 16, 5th race, $1,485. Society Ball: Aug. 11, 6th race, $360): Great Notion Syndicate—$16,380.

HOLY BOSS (Crossland: Aug. 18, 7th race, $2,205. Dead Sexy: Aug. 17, 3rd race, $615; Sept. 8, 1st race, $307.50. Fire and Knives: Sept. 20, 10th race, $390. General J R: Sept. 13, 3rd race, $990. Granuaile: Sept. 14, 4th race, $307.50. Holey Moley: Sept. 20, 10th race, $1,170. Jardani: Aug. 10, 8th race, $720. Poggibonsi: Aug. 30, 6th race, $660. Silverbullettwenty: Aug. 16, 1st race, $195. Vance Scholars: Sept. 13, 9th race, $420): Holy Boss Syndicate—$7,980.

HOPPERTUNITY (Who Says So: Sept. 29, 8th race, $495): Northview Stallion Station Inc.

IMAGINING (Bigdaddysboy: Aug. 23, 9th race, $270; Sept. 13, 1st race, $990; Sept. 29, 6th race, $990. Buckin' Dreamer: Aug. 3, 3rd race, $1,170. El Divino Nino: Aug. 25, 3rd race, $165; Aug. 31, 4th race, $270. In the Dance: Sept. 2, 7th race, $270; Sept. 27, 2nd race, $990. Landslide Is Home: Aug. 18, 1st race, $1,170; Aug. 31, 10th race, $675. Little Lance: Aug. 18, 10th race, $2,205; Aug. 31, 8th race, $660. Monday Morning Qb: Aug. 11, 3rd race, $1,305; Sept. 15, 3rd race, $1,665. Proper Attire: Aug. 3, 6th race, $1,080. Remember Me: Aug. 17, 6th race, $330; Sept. 1, 7th race, $270. Summerstateofmind: Aug. 3, 5th race, $990): Imagining Syndicate—$15,465.

IRISH WAR CRY (Celtic Contender: Sept. 21, 9th race, $2,160. Dance for Green: Sept. 20, 2nd race, $390. Feeling Woozy: Aug. 11, 7th race, $420; Sept. 7, 7th race, $420. Fivecommatwo: Aug. 2, 5th race, $1,170; Sept. 21, 8th race, $1,440. Green Eyed Monster: Aug. 25, 5th race, $1,260. Irish Bandit: Sept. 29, 6th race, $165. Irish Hero: Aug. 23, 6th race, $660; Sept. 2, 8th race, $1,980. Italian War Cry: Sept. 2, 3rd race, $1,260. Lovely Charm: Sept. 2, 6th race, $660. Margaret P: Sept. 2, 3rd race, $210; Sept. 28, 4th race, $195. Riley's Cry Baby: Aug. 23, 3rd race, $150. Run Rocky Run: Sept. 2, 4th race, $150. Spencerian: Aug. 10, 6th race, $1,485; Sept. 2, 6th race, $1,980. Stormy Irish Lass: Sept. 1, 4th race, $300; Sept. 22, 10th race, $990): Northview Stallion Station Inc.—$17,445.

KOBE'S BACK (Guardian Prince: Aug. 23, 8th race, $330. Hittheroadjak: Aug. 31, 8th race, $1,980. Juniper Juice: Sept. 13, 6th race, $2,205. Kobe's Smile: Sept. 7, 2nd race, $1,485. Kobe's Smile: Sept. 21, 8th race, $360): Bonita Farm—$6,360.

LONG RIVER (Dream River: Aug. 23, 9th race, $810; Sept. 13, 1st race, $330. Running River: Aug. 3, 9th race, $255; Sept. 14, 1st race, $255): Long River Syndicate—$1,650.

MADEFROMLUCKY (Feelin So Lucky: Aug. 10, 1st race, $615. Quiet Dancer: Sept. 1, 4th race, $150. Sheilahs Warcloud: Sept. 22, 6th race, $2,160): Madefromlucky Syndicate—$2,925.

MOSLER (Ariel Moon: Aug. 16, 10th race, $495; Sept. 2, 1st race, $420; Sept. 27, 10th race, $390. Lady Mosler: Aug. 2, 5th race, $390. Luv Ya Bye Bye: Aug. 3, 1st race, $765. Mose Perfect: Aug. 16, 7th race, $360. Mosler Time: Sept. 7, 5th race, $2,205. Mysisternancy: Sept. 1, 2nd race, $675. Sapphire Beauty: Sept. 13, 4th race, $255; Sept. 29, 2nd race, $255. Wicked Prankster: Aug. 18, 11th race, $562.50): Mosler Syndicate—$6,772.50.

NO NEVER NO MORE (Irish Angel: Aug. 24, 9th race, $210): Tigertail Ranch.

NOT ABROAD (Nami: Aug. 31, 2nd race, $225): Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman.

NOT FOR LOVE (Clubman: Aug. 24, 6th race, $165): Not For Love Syndicate.

OUTFLANKER (Benny Havens: Sept. 21, 6th race, $720. Tidewater: Aug. 16, 6th race, $795): Outflanker Syndicate—$1,515.

STREET MAGICIAN (Class Wizard: Aug. 16, 1st race, $1,170. Jumpingjaggerflash: Sept. 1, 3rd race, $112.50. Street Copper: Sept. 15, 6th race, $217.50. Street Tough: Aug. 24, 3rd race, $225): R. Larry Johnson—$1,725.

SUPER NINETY NINE (Bad Temper: Aug. 10, 9th race, $150. Enemynumbernine: Sept. 29, 3rd race, $247.50): Country Life Farm—$397.50.

UNCLE LINO (Coastalness: Aug. 23, 3rd race, $900. Do It for Michael: Sept. 14, 5th race, $2,205. Hiya Love: Sept. 13, 7th race, $705. Mission Artemis: Aug. 25, 2nd race, $1,890): Northview Stallion Station—$5,700.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2024

(through December 16)

1. Post Time	$975,000	11. Brilliant Ice	$195,490
2. Mindframe	647,360	12. Fulmineo	193,095
3. Future Is Now	513,155	13. Celtic Contender	189,805
4. Jaxon Traveler	401,799	14. It's Hammertime	184,000
5. Studlydoright	279,680	15. Brzina	181,375
6. Malibu Beauty	217,865	16. Speedyness	178,450
7. Call Another Play	214,775	17. Next Girl	157,550
8. Rominski	198,390	18. Golden Charm	155,610
9. Miss Harriett	195,950	19. Sacred Thunder	153,360
10. Band Camp	195,580	20. Play Harder	153,055

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

Post Time

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **January 2025** -

In This Issue

Smithwick's Spice wins Extravagant Kid Handicap at Gulfstream Park

Equine Discounts for TBANJ Members

Stallion Season Auction set for January 20

2025 Monmouth Park dates approved

2025 Spirit of the Horse Award

Membership Application

Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey

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Smithwick's Spice wins Extravagant Kid Handicap at Gulfstream Park

Smithwick's Spice, New Spice Stable's homebred gelding trained by Douglas Nunn, made a strong showing in the $75,000 Extravagant Kid overnight handicap at Gulfstream Park Nov. 24. Ridden by Jorge Gonzalez, he sprinted to an early lead and successfully fended off multiple challengers in the stretch, ultimately securing an upset victory by a neck.

Covering 5½ furlongs in 1:02.90 over the all-weather Tapeta course, Smithwick's Spice achieved his 14th career victory out of 50 starts. This was his fifth victory of 2024, which included scores in the Leinster Turf Dash Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs, as well as the Select Stakes at Monmouth Park.

Gonzalez quickly hustled Smithwick's Spice to the front from the outermost Post 8 and he set fractions of 22.25 and 45.11 seconds while maintaining an uncontested lead. He faced dwindling margins as they straightened for home, but the son of Frost Giant out of the New Jersey-bred mare Spicy McHaggis (a winning daughter of Good and Tough) persevered to hold on for the victory.

With the win, Smithwick's Spice pushed his 2024 earnings total to $272,525, bringing his total career to $727,792.

LAUREN KING / COGLIANESE PHOTOGRAPHY

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Equine Discounts for TBANJ Members

Call 866-678-4289 or visit EquineDiscounts.com to start saving on the following brands for your farm!

John Deere offers substantial discounts on everything from mowers and tractors to GatorsTM, hay and construction equipment. • The MSRP Program – Professional operations can save up to 28 percent on select equipment • The Cash Bonus Program – All members can save up to $2,700 with vouchers that are stackable with special financing • Construction Equipment – All members can save up to 26 percent on select equipment

Big Ass Fans is committed to Energy Efficient Air movement and providing comfort to the equine industry. Equine members will receive up to a 25 percent discount on qualifying purchases for all Equine Facilities and Personal Residences.

Save up to 40 percent discount on Sherwin Williams paints, in-store products and wall coverings

ODP Business Solutions™ (formerly Office Depot) and Equine Discounts have partnered to provide exclusive benefits and savings on a wide selection of office products and services. ODP Business Solutions™ is here to support the success of your business.

You want great coverage at a great price. Farmers Insurance® has coverage options that you can customize and lots of ways to save with discounts and Policy PerksSM. Farmers offers a broad range of product offerings including Home, Auto, Business, Life and Recreational insurance. Save an average of $730 with your equine discount at Farmers Insurance today!

Stallion Season Auction set for January 20

The Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey (TBANJ) will conduct its annual Stallion Season Auction beginning Monday, Jan. 20 and ending Monday, Jan. 27.

The online auction is being hosted on the Thoroughlybred bidding platform at www.thoroughlybred.com. All participants must be registered with Thoroughlybred prior to bidding. Thoroughlybred offers an automatic bidding process that allows participants to enter the maximum amount they are willing to pay for a season. Thoroughlybred then keeps bidding on the buyer's behalf until the maximum amount is reached or the buyer is the high bidder. Each season's conditions will be posted as part of their auction page on Thoroughlybred.

All proceeds from the auction go to the TBANJ, which uses the funds for promoting the Thoroughbred breeding industry in New Jersey. Stallion seasons will be added until the auction begins on Jan. 20 and a complete list of available seasons will be listed on www.njbreds.com.

Please contact the TBANJ office at 732-542-8880 for additional information.

2025 Monmouth Park Dates Approved

The New Jersey Racing Commission on Nov. 20 approved Darby Development's request to run a 50-day racing schedule at Monmouth Park, from May 10 to Sept. 14.

However, their application to host 21 Thoroughbred programs at Meadowlands from Sept. 19 to Nov. 29 has been tabled. Representatives from both tracks plan to meet to discuss this application further.

In recent years, all races during the Monmouth-at-Meadowlands meet, which typically lasts for a maximum of 10 nights, have been conducted on turf. The NJRC meeting did not address whether the extended Thoroughbred meet would include both turf and dirt racing. However, officials noted that they intend to have further discussions regarding the meet.

Additional information about the 2025 racing dates will be posted on the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey's website when it becomes available.

2025 Spirit of the Horse Award

The Rutgers Equine Science Center presented Dr. Amy Lynn Butewicz with the 2025 Spirit of the Horse award for her steadfast commitment to the New Jersey equine industry. The award was presented to Dr. Butewicz during the Rutgers Equine Science Center's 2024 "Evening of Science & Celebration," sponsored by Mid-Atlantic Equine Medical Center.

"I've known Amy since her time in the New Jersey 4-H program," said Equine Science Center Founding Director Dr. Karyn Malinowski. "I have had the distinct honor of watching her become one of New Jersey's fiercest supporters of the equine industry and youth outreach and engagement."

Dr. Butewicz is a lifelong New Jersey resident and equestrian who has immersed herself in many aspects of the equine industry. From an early age, Dr. Butewicz participated in the 4-H horse program on the local, state and national levels, garnering many accomplishments. Because of this, she was crowned the 2001 NJ State Equestrian of the Year for her strong leadership in the equine community.

In 2008, Dr. Butewicz graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Rutgers University Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy with a Doctorate Degree (PharmD) in Pharmacy, and was a member of Rho Chi, the national pharmacy honor society. Even though she continues to hold an active pharmacist license in the states of New Jersey and Kentucky, her deep connection to horses, agriculture and open space in New Jersey led her to obtain her real estate license in 2015. She currently works as a full time Realtor for Keller Williams Princeton Real Estate, specializing in equestrian properties, farms and land across the entire state.

Dr. Butewicz, and her sister Stacy, operate their real estate team under the Butewicz Equestrian Lifestyle Real Estate banner. To date, Butewicz Lifestyle Real Estate has proudly represented both buyers and sellers in over 135 farm sales totaling just over $100 million in sales volume.

Always giving back her time and efforts to organizations and charities, her volunteerism philanthropy and leadership have been a tremendous focus for Dr. Butewicz. She is currently a Chair Emeritus for the Rutgers University Board for Equine Advancement, the advisory group to the Rutgers Equine Science Center, and had previously served as co-chair of the board.

A champion for open space and agriculture initiatives, she serves as a council member for Millstone Township (Monmouth County) on two separate councils: the Open Space Preservation Council and the Agricultural Advisory Council, serving currently as chairperson. To foster the growth of future leaders, Dr. Butewicz created the NJ Agricultural Achievement Award Scholarship which is awarded annually.

Membership Application

Member Information

NAME _____ SS#/FEDERAL I.D.# _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ COUNTY _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Membership Categories

☐ Breeder — A breeder member shall be a person who owns the required interest in a broodmare or registered stallion domiciled in New Jersey; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. A breeder member shall have voting rights.

☐ Owner — An owner member shall be a person who owns a registered New Jersey- bred; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. An owner member will not have voting rights.

☐ Associate — An associate member is a person who is interested in owning, breeding, or racing horses in the State of New Jersey or in fostering economic activity through the breeding, ownership and/or racing of horses in the State of New Jersey. An associate member will not have voting rights.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Membership Dues

A check or money order for $100.00 must accompany this form. Spouses are encouraged to join the **TBANJ** under joint membership status. This fee would total $150.00 per couple. Each spouse must fill out a separate form to accompany the payment. Membership will be effective upon receipt and will be in force each calendar year and must be renewed annually.

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
265 Hwy 36
Suite 1R
W. Long Branch, NJ 07764
(732) 542-8880
email: njbreds@gmail.com

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

January 2025

President's message

It's that time again – Happy New Year!!

NCTA is looking forward to an exciting year in 2025. I want to give a shout out to Rebecca Montaldo for all the hard work she has put into the North Carolina Thoroughbred Association over the past years and we hope she will continue to support NCTA in the coming years as well.

Congratulations to Double Tough Tiger for winning at Camarero Race Track. Keep up the great work.

And REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025.

Happy New Year to all.

Bonnie Herring, President NCTA

336-622-3089; bherring@rtelco.net

NCTA MISSION STATEMENT

- Promote the Thoroughbred industry in North Carolina,
- Provide educational opportunities to our members in all aspects of the Thoroughbred industry, and
- Provide our members with opportunities to develop working relationships and meet as friends and colleagues, thereby encouraging excellence and outstanding achievements.

NCTA Member Spotlight: Art Bauer

Art Bauer is in the NCTA SpotLight for January 2025. He has been in the horse business for over 40 years and is located in Waxhaw, N.C. In the SpotLight we have two of his horses that are in training and currently racing in Pennsylvania. We wish him all the best in the up coming 2025 year with these horses.

Fortunate Mission is a NC-bred just-turned 2-year-old in training with Bernie Houghton in Pennsylvania. She is by Madefromlucky out of Girl On a Mission, by Noble Mission (GB) and Owned and bred by Art Bauer.

Bauer is also the breeder of another NC-bred Thoroughbred in training, Hartful Hope.

He gave the now-5-year-old mare to his friend Gerard Eckhardt, who passed in February. Eckhardt was responsible for getting her to the races. Hope is now running at Mahoning Valley in Ohio and recently ran there on Dec. 10.

This SpotLight is for Hope and Gerard.

Above, just turned 2-year-old Fortunate Mission is in training with Bernie Houghton at Sylmar Farm. Left, allowance-winning Hartful Hope is currently running in Ohio.

Hitting the Board

November 17 – December 10, 2024

Date	*Horse*	*Track*	*NCTA Connection*
17-Nov	Mom's Martini	Gulfstream	Owners - Shea D Boy's Stable
18-Nov	O'Conner Sunset	Mountaineer	Owners - Arkofa Farms
21-Nov	Kenny Had a Notion	Charles Town	Bred by Nancy Shuford; Owner Arkofa Farm
21-Nov	Cayenne Creek	Charles Town	Bred by Clint Lowery
22-Nov	Contrivance	Woodbine	Owned by William Thompson Jr.
23-Nov	Frosty Ria	Charles Town	Bred & Owned by Clint Lowery
23-Nov	Cainudothetwist	Aiken	Bred by Bill & Carrington Price
23-Nov	My Shea D Lady	Aqueduct	Owners - Shea D Boy's Stable
24-Nov	DOUBLE TOUGH TIGER	Camarero Race Track	Bred by Beth Muirhead
24-Nov	Flat Out Flying	Aqueduct	Bred by Beth Muirhead & Frank Coniglio
28-Nov	Magic Token	Woodbine	Owned by William Thompson Jr.
29-Nov	In Your Life	Del Mar	Bred by Nancy Shuford
7-Dec	Raise a Ruckus	Charles Town	Bred & Owned by Clint Lowery
7-Dec	Greatandgood	Charles Town	Owner Arlee Arofa
7-Dec	Tiz Sweet Emotion	Turfway Park	Bred & Owned by Denise Walsh
7-Dec	Gulfstream Way	Oaklawn Park	Bred by Denise Walsh
10-Dec	Hartful Hope	Mahoning Valley	Bred by Art Bauer; Owner Jimmer Racing (the late Gerard Eckhardt)

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME_____SPOUSE_____

FARM_____

MAILING ADDRESS_____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

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☐Jr. MEMBER - AGE 21 UNDER @ -0 ☐FARM @ $80.00 ☐CORPORATE SPONSOR @ $250.00
☐SPONSOR @ $140.00
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Membership includes subscriptions to Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Magazine

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Involvement in the Thoroughbred Industry
(Please check any or all pertaining to you)

☐Breeder☐Racing☐ Steeplechase ☐Boarding☐Foaling
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PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **N.C.T.A.**
MAIL WITH COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: **Bonnie Herring, 436 Sam Lowe Road, Siler City, NC 27344**

Thank you for your support.

Find all NCTA forms full-size online at ncthoroughbred.com

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

(336) 622-3089
www.ncthoroughbred.com
ncthoroughbred@gmail.com 436 Sam Lowe Road
Siler City, NC 27344

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PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

January 2025
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

VISIT PABRED.COM

- **Racing and breeding news**
- **PA-Bred entries/results**
- **Rules, regulations, forms**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Brian N. Sanfratello
Executive Secretary
execsec@pabred.com

Vicky Schowe
Asst. Exec. Sec.

701 E. Baltimore Pike, Ste. E
Kennett Square, PA 19348
Phone: 610-444-1050
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Foxy Junior proves last chances are possible

By Nikki Sherman

Sometimes it's the last chance to find success that offers the best opportunity. This is true in the case with Dianne Stern's homebred filly Foxy Junior, whose family has been with Stern for three generations.

"I claimed her grandmother Hanalei Bay for $7,500 (in December 2005)," said Stern. "She went on to be stakes placed, with earnings just over $200,000. She produced all winners."

In 2010, Stern sent Hanalei Bay to Flatter, which produced Foxy Dummer. This filly showed mild talent in capturing three races, including a maiden special weight at Charles Town in West Virginia. Foxy Drummer went out with a win, although it was not the plan to end there. Unfortunately she bowed a tendon and was retired to become a broodmare.

Stern remembered: "Other than Foxy Junior, her babies never made it as racehorses. I had planned on giving Foxy Drummer away. When I was offered a free breeding to Cuba I gladly accepted it. I intended to keep the baby, who I was sure would be my last racehorse.

"The person getting (Foxy Drummer) as a pleasure horse lived in Pennsylvania. Thus, the baby was born there and registered as a PA-Bred. I liked the bonus system for PA-Breds, so I was happy with the arrangement."

Foxy Junior was born on May 9, 2020. Her sire was the underused warhorse Cuba, a son of the legendary Not For Love. Cuba won 14 of 59 career starts and was a multiple stakes winner and graded stakes-placed while garnering career earnings of $792,694. Stern noted that from the beginning, Foxy Junior looked like a racehorse just like her mother, who had the build of a Quarter Horse. They even had the same facial markings.

As a juvenile, Foxy Junior's fourth start was the charm. On Dec. 21, 2022, going 6 furlongs at Penn National, Foxy Junior got her first victory by three-quarters of a length in her final race of the year. It is difficult to win as a 2-year-old, let alone in a maiden special weight, so it was a great day for her

Foxy Junior continued from page 1

connections: Stern, trainer Bernie Houghton and jockey Maicol Inirio.

Foxy Junior had earned a winter freshening and returned to the races the following May. The now-sophomore filly was also ready for longer races. She snagged two straight allowance scores in June and July at Penn National, earning a spot in a local stakes race with interesting conditions.

The $50,000 Fort Indiantown Gap Stakes was open to any filly or mare with a 2023 start at Penn National who had not won a stakes that year. Originally scheduled for the turf, the 1 1/16-mile event was contested on the dirt and featured several future stakes winners. Foxy Junior was one of that group, but it wasn't yet time for her to become a stakes winner. The top three runners ran 1-2-3 throughout the entire route, with Foxy Junior pressing Perfect Hideaway and Wings of a Song. The trio were just heads apart at the top of the stretch, with the battle continuing. In the end it was just 1 length separating the winner from Foxy Junior in third.

In her eight starts as a 3-year-old, Foxy Junior never finished out of the money. A third victory eluded her after the stakes race and, by December, she was ready for her annual winter vacation. Foxy Junior came back in May this year at the top of her game.

"She won twice as a 3-year-old," Stern said. "Given time off, she's really blossomed as a 4-year-old. Foxy was a May foal, so I think that is why she is so much better (in 2024). The time off and limited races helped too."

Winning as a juvenile and then at 3 is hard, but Foxy Junior's 4-year-old campaign was the most impressive. Paired up with new rider Jomar Torres, it was nearly perfect. The duo won six of seven starts, culminating in three straight stakes scores.

Their lone loss was a fourth-place finish in the $100,000 Princess of Sylmar Stakes at Presque Isle Downs in July. It was still a quality race for her resume, as Foxy Junior traveled the farthest of all the competitors since she was stuck four-wide around the far turn. And those competitors were no joke: stakes winners New Hire, Rosie's Alibi and Stern Chaser. It was also over a different surface, the all-weather track.

Prior to the trip north to Erie, Foxy Junior rolled to three straight allowance/optional claiming victories at Penn National. In her 2024 debut, she snuck under the radar and nabbed the optional claimer for a $25,000 tag, absolutely demolishing her competition by 11½ lengths. After that performance, claiming races were out of the question. She scored those two additional allowance victories in May and July.

Foxy Junior returned to the winner's circle on Pennsylvania Derby Day at Parx Racing in the $100,000 Plum Pretty Stakes, beating five other PA-Bred fillies and mares by 1¾ lengths. One of those she defeated was now-millionaire Morning Matcha.

Based on that performance, Stern and Houghton decided to give the $100,000 Maryland Million Distaff at Laurel Park a shot. It was a race that had been on their radar, but they did not want to embarrass themselves. Such an emphatic win in the Plum Pretty Stakes convinced them to "go for it" in Stern's home state.

Continued on page 4

A few words from the Executive Secretary

Congrats to the Gregory and Caroline Bentley-bred 2yo filly Caprice, who won the $100,000 Maryland Juvenile Filly Stakes on Dec. 7. That makes her 5-for-6 lifetime, four of which were stakes! Wow!

Our $100,000 2yo features of 2024 were run on Nov. 27. Congrats to the Brian Schartz-bred Crab Daddy, who came up the rail to victory in the Pennsylvania Nursery at PARX, and J. Patrick Morell and Tanya Lobsiger-bred Icona Mama, who pretty much had her way in the Shamrock Rose Stakes at Penn National, running away by 9½ lengths.

The next races in the PA-Sired PA-Bred Stallion Series were scheduled to run Dec. 30 at PARX. This was the second leg of the series. The third and last leg of the series will be run in 2025 at $100,000 for 3yos and 3yo fillies. A $50,000 breeder bonus for horses that finish first, second and third in total points for the series will be paid at that time – $25,000 for first, $15,000 for second and $10,000 for third.

Please take a look at the 2025 Stallion & Boarding Farm Directory. We have eight new stallions along with our regular PA-Sires. You can view the directory online at pabred.com. A hard copy of the directory will be sent to breeders by the end of December. Pick out your next Derby winner!

Domicile forms are mandatory and should have already been completed by Dec. 1 or when you mare comes into the state if breeding back to a PA stallion or within 14 days of a public sale. If you are still using paper registrations, please make sure you forward a signed copy of the Code of Ethics, which is attached to the registration form. We will be transitioning to paperless in 2025. As usual, please contact our office with any questions you may have.

Wishing you a fantastic start to 2025, and remember, PA is the only place to Breed and Race! Approximately $26 million will be paid out in 2024 to PA-Bred owners and breeders in Breeder Awards, Owner Bonuses and Restricted Races. Go PA!!

NEW TO PA IN 2025!

ALEJANDRO
Curlin – Rachel's Valentina, by Bernardini
Mountain Springs Farm

BEREN
Weigelia – Silmaril by Diamond
WynOaks Farm

CURLIN'S WISDOM
Curlin – Whisper Wisdom
Cabin Creek Gettysburg

ENTICED
Medaglia D'Oro – It's Tricky, by Mineshaft
Mountain Springs Farm

IMPOSING
Gun Runner – Untapable, by Tapit
Cabin Creek Gettysburg

MAGIC SPOON
Good Magic – Canadian Mistress, by Canadian Frontier
Cabin Creek Gettysburg

TYSON
Tapit – Honouring, by Smart Strike
Stone Jug Ranch

ZOZOS
Munnings – Papa's Forest, by Forestry
Equistar Training and Breeding

PENNSYLVANIA
HORSE BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION

BREEDING IN PA PAYS!

Foxy Junior continued from page 2

Beforehand, Houghton explained the decision. "We gave her time off in the wintertime like we usually do and for some reason she just came back so good. It all just came together for her this year. She won those allowance races back-to-back and every day she just seemed to get better and better. She's sharp and ready to go."

The race was a cut back to 7 furlongs, which was a bit of a concern for Houghton. It didn't matter: Foxy Junior was sharp indeed, settling just off the pace, yet again overcoming a wide trip, and driving past the first and second choices to score by three-quarters of a length. To many onlookers, the Maryland Million Distaff was the most impressive race of the day.

The $100,000 Thirty Eight Go Go Stakes at Laurel Park on Nov. 9 was the finale to her nearly perfect season. Foxy Junior finally got a good trip and was able to sit in a perfect second-place position before making her move around the turn. She drew off under Jomar Torres to win by 2¾ lengths.

And with that, her 4-year-old season came to a close. Foxy Junior has earned a much-needed rest at the Houghtons' Sylmar Farm for the winter. Plans are for the mare to begin training again in February for her 2025 campaign. It will be hard to do better than this year, but she has eclipsed so many obstacles that anything is possible.

Stern is glad she kept that last foal out of Foxy Drummer. If Foxy Junior truly is her last racehorse, she will be going out with a bang. In the meantime, "I am enjoying the thrill ride!"

PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through October 31, 2024

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total	Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Warriors Reward	621,651	167,874	789,525	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	84,076	148,509	232,585
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	413,563	187,073	600,636	Pewter Stable	166,656	46,051	212,707
Steven W. Young Racing LLC	266,882	91,497	358,379	Arrowwood Farm Inc.	171,600	0	171,600
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	329,166	329,166	Joseph Imbesi	164,607	0	164,607
Blackstone Farm LLC	291,146	0	291,146	St. Omer's Farm	157,002	0	157,002
Glenn E. Brok LLC	213,090	63,222	276,311	Sylmar Farm Inc.	145,091	0	145,091

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Uptowncharlybrown	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	432	187,073	Peace and Justice	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	183	91,497
Warrior's Reward	Warriors Reward	395	167,874	Winchill	Pewter Stable	121	46,051
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	275	144,529	Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	169	42,580
Hoppertunity	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	327	132,815	Talent Search	Glenn E. Brok LLC	56	36,189
Uncle Lino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	245	116,883	Well Spelled	Godstone Farm LP	104	36,097
Social Inclusion	Social Inclusion Partners LLC	175	100,105	Red Vine	DB Dojo LLC	71	27,846

LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments. **Denotes PA-sired*

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Bonus	Total
The Boy's Warrior *	Warrior's Reward - Inciarte	Warriors Reward	3	118,800	56,880	14,220	5,400	195,300
Smooth B *	Weigelia - Katarica Disco	St. Omer's Farm	4	60,000	84,000	21,000	0	165,000
Fierce and Strong *	Hoppertunity - Doubleclickdamouse	Ultra Championship Racing LLC	6	81,020	50,068	12,517	10,570	154,175
Morning Matcha	Central Banker - Home Ice	Crane Thoroughbred Services LLC	3	119,880	22,800	0	0	142,680
Traders Luck *	Weigelia - Deanies Dancer	Sylmar Farm Inc.	8	20,000	56,376	14,094	30,840	121,310
Capo *	Peace and Justice - Seven Dreams	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	9	43,640	44,723	11,181	21,088	120,632
Honorable Win *	Winchill - Honorable Partner	Pewter Stable	2	75,200	30,080	7,520	0	112,800
Confirmed Star *	Uptowncharlybrown - Its My Town	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	8	9,800	66,840	16,710	14,200	107,550
Pachelbel *	Hoppertunity - Brilliant Sunshine	Newell Thoroughbreds Ltd.	10	19,600	48,550	12,137	21,964	102,251
Foxy Junior	Cuba - Foxy Drummer	Dianne L. Stern	5	64,500	25,680	0	9,600	99,780
Twilight Dancer	Tapiture - Moonlight Basin	Warriors Reward	8	58,200	27,160	0	13,900	99,260
Crisper	Tapiture - Je Suis Enchantee	Ascoli Piceno Stables LLC	4	75,200	20,860	0	0	96,060

**Denotes PA-sired*

SCTOBA

South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2025

Racing Across the Nation

While only a few South Carolina training center graduates found themselves in the winner's circle following stakes during the Oct. 20 to Nov. 20 period, Randy and Kala Rentz claimed both. Bold Fortune won the New York Breeder's Futurity at Finger Lakes and The Boy's Warrior proved best in the Mark McDermott at Presque Isle Downs, both races run Oct. 21 for 2-year-olds.

Bold Fortune broke sharply, immediately taking the lead and never looking back. He led by 3 lengths halfway through this 6-furlong race and extended his lead in the stretch, crossing the finish line 7¾ lengths in front. In three career starts, this Central Banker gelding has two wins and a third with earnings of $151,270.

In the Mark McDermott, The Boy's Warrior set the pace while racing on the inside. He maintained a half-length lead for the first half mile before sprinting clear in the stretch to cross the line by 4 lengths and remain undefeated in three starts, two in stakes, having won the Whistle Pig at Parx Sept. 21. He pushed his earnings to $142,200.

Return of Colonial Cup

The Colonial Cup returned to the Springdale Race Course in Camden Nov. 17. The weather was nice and a large crowd witnessed the running of five hurdle races and an apprentice rider flat race.

The program began with a maiden special weight hurdle captured by Madaket's Arrow, owned by Daigneault Thoroughbred LLC, trained by Kate Dalton and ridden by her husband Bernie. The Daltons are SCTOBA members. In her second race over jumps, Madaket's Arrow was prominent throughout, winning by 1½ lengths.

The Raymond G. Woolfe Memorial Stakes was taken by Matthew T. Groff's Brie's Mission, trained by Jack Fisher and ridden by Graham Walters. Brie's Mission took the lead following the sixth of 10 fences and proved much the best when crossing the finish line 7¾ lengths in front. This was his first win over hurdles. The third race, a starter allowance, was won by Hard Game LLC's L'Avvocato (Fr) by a half length in a hard-fought effort. L'Avvocato is trained by Jack Fisher and was ridden by Evan Dwan.

The feature race of the day, the $150,000 Colonial Cup-G1, was run as the fourth race. The field was composed of the country's best jump horses. Too Friendly (GB) had only one beat after 2 miles. During the final quarter mile, he worked his way up and jumped the last fence with two others then reached the finish line a half length in front. He is owned by Irvin S. Naylor, trained by Leslie Young and was ridden by Jamie Bargary.

The final hurdle race of the day, the $72,000 The Hobkirk Hill, also was captured by an Irvin Naylor-owned horse, the mare Gold Charm (Ire). This was her third win in a row. Gold Charm trailed the field for the first mile, then gradually advanced and took the lead right after the final fence. She drew clear to win by 5¾ lengths. Gold Charm is trained by Cyril Murphy and was ridden by Gerard Galligan.

The final race of the day was a flat race ridden by apprentice riders. Holey Moley, with Brian Barry up, proved best by 1¾ lengths. Holey Moley is owned by Paul Wells and trained by Barry Foley.

Aiken Fall Steeplechase run under sunny skies

The 31st running of the Aiken Fall Steeplechase took place Nov. 23. Due to the cancellation of the Steeplechase of Charleston Nov. 10, the original five race program was expanded to seven events over jumps.

The first race, a maiden claiming event, was captured by Cant Catch Camacho (Ire) by 1½ lengths. The gelding is owned by Go Poke the Bear Syndicate, trained by Leslie Young and was ridden by Jamie Bargary. SCTOBA board member Marsha Hewitt is a participant in this ownership group. In the second race, a ratings handicap, we saw an exciting finish with Sawbuck Racing's Bellarmine Hall outdueling others approaching the wire and winning by a neck. Trained by Liam Bourke, Bellarmine Hall was ridden by Paddy O'Hanlon.

The team of SCTOBA members, trainer Kate Dalton and jockey Bernie Dalton's charge, China Beach, proved best in a maiden hurdle event by 3½ lengths. China Beach is owned by St Rita Racing. In another maiden hurdle race, James B. Steele's King of the Kids found his way to the winner's circle when winning by 1¾ lengths. Ridden by Harrison Beswick, this now 6-year-old son of Lemon Drop Kid is trained by Cyril Murphy.

The fifth race was also a ratings handicap. This race had a very competitive stretch run with Daniel R. Barker's Decisive Triumph earning a hard-fought victory by a half length. He was ridden by Dan Nevin and is trained by Mark Beecher. The Alston Cup, an allowance race, also had a tight finish with Mrs. S.K. Johnston Jr.'s Smart

Uncle leading the field past the finish line by a half length. Jack Fisher saddled Smart Uncle and gave Graham Watters a leg up into the saddle.

The final race of the day was the feature, the $50,000 Holiday Cup Stakes. SCTOBA member Virginia Lazenby's Del Rio Racing's Little Trilby (GB) went right to the front opening up a lengthy lead. He was never threatened and galloped home a 21-length winner.

The Aiken Fall Steeplechase was the final meet of the 2024 National Steeplechase Association schedule. The 2025 season will start in Aiken next March.

Vodka With a Twist and Post Time make South Carolina proud

Two horses developed for their racing careers in South Carolina finished second in their Breeders' Cup races on Nov. 1 and 2 at Del Mar. Vodka With a Twist, purchased by Bobby, Debby and Jason's McCutchen Training Center at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October Yearling Sale for $2,500 last year, finished second in the $2-million Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies-G1. Following a fourth-place finish in her debut at Keeneland, Vodka With a Twist was a $90,000 RNA at the Keeneland Horses of Racing Age Sale. She broke her maiden at Churchill Downs May 17 and was sold privately to Medallion Racing, Omar Aldabbagh, William Strauss, BlackRidge Stable LLC and Schwing Thoroughbreds and sent to trainer Phil D'Amato. In her first start for them, she won the $225,000 Debutante Stakes at Churchill. Prior to the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies, the filly finished second in the Sorrento Stakes-G3 and Del Mar Debutante Stakes-G1. She currently has career earnings of $663,320.

Following this accomplishment, Jason McCutchen commented, "We are tickled pink here at the McCutchen Training Center. It takes a village to pull something like this off. We are definitely not a one man band here." The McCutchens buy yearlings, prepare them for racing, get their careers started and then sell them as 2-year-olds. While they would still like to own Vodka With a Twist, buying and selling is what they do and they are happy to be cheering from the sidelines.

Post Time, purchased by Cary Frommer for long-time client Ellen Charles (Hillwood Stable LLC) at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall Yearling Sale in 2021 for $85,000, finished second in the $1 million Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile-G1 Nov. 2. Thirteenth and last for the first half-mile, Post Time put in a tremendous rally to get up to finish second, beaten only 1½ lengths.

Now 5, Post Time (Frosted—Vielsalm, by Fairbanks) is trained by Brittany Russell and was ridden by her husband, Sheldon. Post Time underwent Cary Frommer's breaking program in Aiken and was remembered as quite a character and still is. Following the race, Frommer said, "I'm so excited. He was closing so well. Sheldon rode him brilliantly!" In 15 career starts, Post Time has nine wins, three seconds and three third-place finishes with career earnings of $1,227,910.

South Carolina-trained winners

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
BOLD FORTUNE	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	10/21/24	Finger Lakes	NY Breeder's Futurity
THE BOY'S WARRIOR	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	10/21/24	Presque Isle Downs	Mark McDermott S.
Bartlett	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	10/22/24	Parx Racing	Allowance
Obi Kenobi	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	10/23/24	Mahoning Valley	Maiden special weight
East Shore	Aiken - Rebecca Hurt	10/23/24	Keeneland	Starter Allowance
Fortyfiveseventy	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	10/26/24	Woodbine	Allowance
Points Is Points	Custom Care - D. Freyer	10/25/24	Keeneland	Maiden special weight
Flying Mohawk	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	10/27/24	Churchill Downs	Maiden special weight
Little G T	Aiken - Rebecca Hurt	10/27/24	Great Meadow	Maiden special weight
Ratatat	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	10/28/24	Mahoning Valley	Allowance
Natures Candy	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	10/29/24	Parx Racing	Allowance
Bullring Bully	Mason Springs	10/30/24	Charles Town	Maiden special weight
Mybronxbaby	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	11/01/24	Aqueduct	Allowance
Kingdom Queen	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	11/04/24	Mountaineer Park	Allowance
Pachelbel	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	11/04/24	Parx Racing	Allowance
Tiz Wicked Strong	Aiken – Cary Frommer	11/04/24	Finger Lakes	Maiden special weight
Latta	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	11/05/24	Parx Racing	Allowance
Heck of a Bust	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	11/06/24	Finger Lakes	Maiden special weight
One Morerep	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	11/06/24	Finger Lakes	Maiden special weight
Party At Sam's	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	11/07/24	Penn National	Allowance
Septarian	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	11/08/24	Laurel Park	Allowance
Drexel Hill	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	11/09/24	Woodbine	Maiden special weight
Baltic Fire	Mason Springs	11/09/24	Del Mar	Allowance
Girls Weekend	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	11/10/24	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Queen's Wreath	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	11/10/24	Laurel Park	Maiden special weight
Pachelbel	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	11/13/24	Parx Racing	Allowance
Query	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	11/14/24	Penn National	Maiden special weight
Calculated Luv	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	11/14/24	Delta Downs	Allowance
Reigert Girls	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	11/15/24	Penn National	Allowance
Mat Matters	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	11/15/24	Penn National	Starter Allowance
Her Laugh	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	11/17/24	Churchill Downs	Maiden special weight
Madaket's Arrow	Kate Dalton	11/17/24	Colonial Cup	Maiden special weight
Pudd'n N Pie	Aiken - Cary Frommer	11/18/24	Mahoning Valley	Allowance

VIRGINIA

COLONIAL DOWNS 2025 DATES APPROVED BY THE VIRGINIA RACING COMMISSION

Racing dates for an expanded 2025 season at Colonial Downs — which includes two separate meets — were formally approved at the Virginia Racing Commission's December meeting. The 44-day schedule starts with a special three-day Virginia Derby meet from March 13 through March 15 followed by the traditional summer meet from July 9 through September 13.

The $500,000 Virginia Derby, a points race on the Road to the Kentucky Derby, will transition to the dirt and be held on March 15, anchoring the new spring meet which will also include the $250,000 Virginia Oaks, a Kentucky Oaks points race. The winning horse in each race will receive 50 points to the Grade 1 Kentucky Derby or the Grade 1 Kentucky Oaks, respectively. The second- through fifth-place finishers will earn 25-15-10-5 points on a sliding scale. Post times for racing during the three-day March meet will be at 12:30 PM the first two days while Saturday's Virginia Derby card will kick off at Noon. Additional reserved indoor and outdoor seating will be available for Derby Day festivities.

The summer schedule expands to 41 days in 2025 with racing four days per week, Wednesday through Saturday. Post time will be 12:30 PM on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday with twilight racing offered every Friday at 4 PM. Racing also will be offered on Labor Day, Monday, September 1. Sundays will serve as a make-up day for any cards that are cancelled during the meet.

Colonial's "Festival of Racing" and its three graded stakes races is slated for Saturday, August 9 and will have a special Noon post time. Racing also will start at Noon on Saturday, September 6 for a stakes-laden card that will most likely be highlighted by an Old Dominion Derby though plans have not been finalized.

The 2025 dates complement Maryland's calendar nicely and were a direct result of cooperation with the MJC and the Maryland horsemen.

Bevery D Stakes winner Moira (outside), was one of seven horses that competed at Colonial Downs who went on to participate in the Breeders' Cup Championships (Coady Media).

A condition book for the dirt-only spring meet will be available soon. The receiving barn and regular barns 1-3 will be utilized. Two inches of material will be added to Colonial's 1 ¼ miles dirt oval and training will be available from March 8 -15. Dan Bork, Assistant Race Secretary at Churchill Downs and Race Secretary at Ellis Park, will take over as Racing Secretary at the New Kent oval.

Looking ahead to the summer season, Colonial will be adding gaps to alleviate run up distances which were a concern last year. Other improvements include a new dorm to accommodate additional backstretch personnel, and another phase of turf irrigation system upgrades. The 2024 season offered approximately $650,000 in purses per day and they are expected to be similar in 2025.

BOSTON, VIRGINIA-BRED HALL OF FAME THOROUGHBRED HORSE, RECOGNIZED WITH HISTORICAL HIGHWAY MARKER IN HENRICO COUNTY

Boston, a Hall of Fame Virginia-bred thoroughbred horse, was feted December 1 at Historic Tuckahoe in Henrico County with a historical highway marker dedication that recognizes his prominence in the racing world. The marker was recently installed near his foaling location in the county along the westbound lanes of Route 6, at 10400-10402 Patterson Avenue. The dedication ceremony took place inside the original horse stable at

Love Saga and rider Sean McDermott head to the winners circle at the 2024 Old Dominion PTP after capturing the $30,000 Filly/Mare Maiden Hurdle (Douglas Lees).

Hall of Fame Virginia-bred horse Boston received a historical highway marker that was placed outside of Richmond, VA (VEA photo).

Carloun won the G1 William Allison Stakes during the International Gold Cup card which was held at Glenwood Park (Douglas Lees).

Historic Tuckahoe — situated just outside of Richmond about 35 miles from Colonial Downs — which is the boyhood home of Thomas Jefferson.

Boston, a regal chestnut colored horse with a white blaze on his nose, was a grandson of Sir Archy and lived from 1833-1850. He was the most accomplished racehorse in an era when thoroughbred racing was the nation's most popular sport.

Moderator at the dedication ceremony was Josh Pons, equine author and co-owner of Country Life Farm in Hartford County, Maryland. Pons bred Fulmineo, winner of the inaugural $125,000 Boston Stakes held July 13 at Colonial Downs. The 3-year-old Bolt d'Oro colt also competed in the September 7 Virginia Derby.

VIRGINIA JUMP MEETS HELP NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE ASSOCIATION ACHIEVE BANNER YEAR IN 2024

Based on the recent success of running several National Steeplechase Association (NSA) sanctioned races at Virginia's spring Point-to-Point meets the past couple years, that strategy will continue and even expand in 2025 according to NSA Director of Racing Bill Gallo.

"We've had a good experience at the Old Dominion and Blue Ridge meets and will be adding the Loudoun Hunt Meet at Morven Park in Leesburg to the mix next year," said Gallo. "We thought it would be good to reach out to Point-to-Point meets that were well established and had good racecourses that were safe to race over and give them a chance to expand their racing opportunities. We refer to them as hybrid meets now since they include regulated NSA sanctioned races and other races they traditionally have run that are not regulated. These mixed meets give Point-to-Points a bit more validity and substance," added Gallo. "It clearly gets the top riders and trainers to participate in these meets. It's a win-win situation. It's a small step but a very positive one. It's good for the Point-to-Points and good for the NSA as well."

The new Loudoun Hunt PTP is scheduled for Sunday April 20 and will feature a minimum of two sanctioned races though the final program is still being created. The Old Dominion PTP, slated for Saturday April 5 at the Ben Venue Farm in Washington, Virginia, hosted two sanctioned races last year — one hurdle and one timber — and will get an additional sanctioned hurdle race this spring to bring its total number up to three. The Blue Ridge, which has a new date of Saturday April 12 at the Woodley Farm in Berryville, will host a four-pack of sanctioned races, up from two last year. They will have three hurdle events and a timber race.

Overall, the NSA is coming off a strong 2024 which saw purses rise one million dollars — from just under $6 million, to just under $7 million. Gallo referred to the gain as "unheard of".

"The fall meets in Virginia were great and a big reason why we had a successful year," he said. "We did have a course problem at Great Meadow but the transition to running it at Glenwood Park in Middleburg worked out nicely. Thank God we had that option for the International Gold Cup card as opposed to cancellation of a major meet. Horsemen liked running at Glenwood Park."

"Montpelier had their strongest race card ever and had the biggest crowd that I've ever seen there," continued Gallo. "And Foxfield put a tremendous amount of effort into their course thanks to Jack Sanford and Reynolds Cowles. They are presenting themselves beautifully with major renovations and increased purses. As a result, they have two premier meets now. Horsemen really appreciate those efforts.

Two new additions to the Virginia stakes schedule also played a major factor in 2024's growth. The Grade 1 Colonial Cup was run during the spring Gold Cup card and the Grade 1 Will Allison Stakes was contested during the fall International Gold Cup card. The pair represented the first Grade 1 steeplechase stakes to ever appear on the Commonwealth's calendar.

The jump race program at Colonial Downs also was key. "We love going to Colonial," added Gallo. "It is such a great opportunity. It's not just the volume of races, but the purses are very good too. It's pivotal for us. The meet there offers $50,000 purses for maiden special weights — which is substantial for us — along with several ratings races for claiming type horses which are in the mid to lower end — like they are in any kind of racing. The meet was complemented by two $100,000 filly stakes which were held a month apart which fit perfectly with the program." Discussions are currently taking place about what the 2025 summer season in New Kent will look like.

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Virginia Breeders Fund

West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter January 2025

2024 WVTBA Horse Show

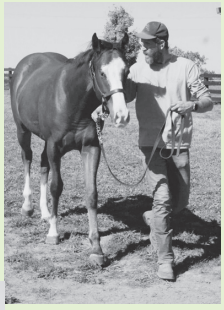
By Jeff Gilleas

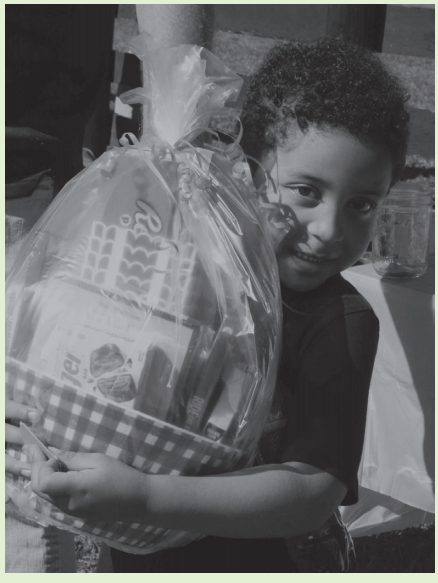
The WVTBA promotes healthy competition through its continuing path to diversity, serving the backyard breeder to well positioned enterprises.

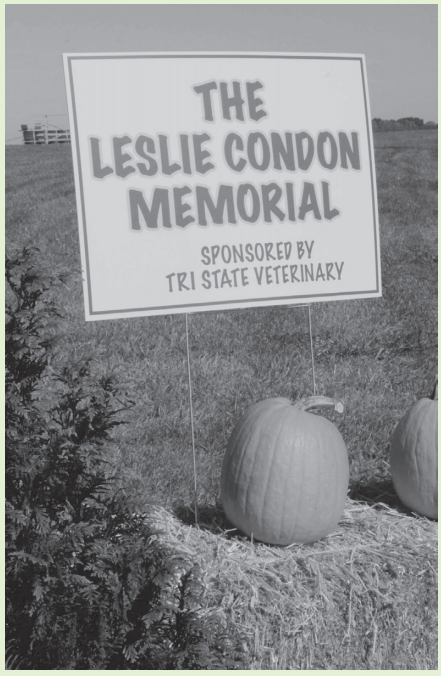
This year the West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association Horse Show's most compelling feature was it's ability to solicit a wide variety of sponsors to support their annual program held at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in October.

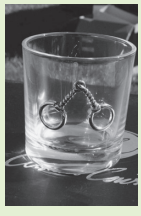
Sponsors included: The West Virginia Breeders Classics, Charles Town Racetrack Chaplaincy, Mark Russell, DeWayne Johnson, Anthony Lucas, Carlisle Horse Company, Hillside Childcare and Development Center, Dr. Henry Christie, Jason Gray, FTF Racing, Odessa Clelland, TriState Veterinary, Beau Ridge Farm, Grams Racing Stable, Ronney and Nicole Brown, Red Barn Tack Shop, Ultra Championship Racing, Anthony Farrior, Southern States, Triple Crown Nutrition, Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races, Jefferson Rentals, CTHBPA, Anne Casey, Vital Signs, Naomi Long and Tim Jennings.

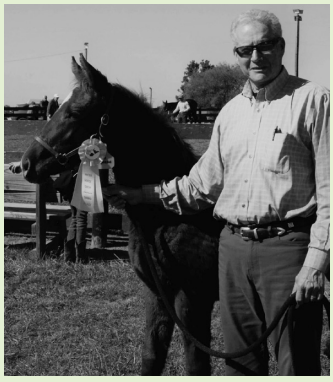
Jockey, trainer, breeder, steward and lobbyist Mike Pearson was the Horse Show's esteemed judge, and local horseman Ronney W. Brown masterfully filled the duel role of announcer/ringmaster.











BROODMARES

The James, Eleanor and John Casey Memorial (sponsored by Ann Casey)

First Place: Brigintine Island, Owner: Beau Ridge Farm (Cyndy McKee)
Second Place: Aye A Song, Owner: Beau Ridge Farm (Cyndy McKee)

WEANLINGS

The Leslie Condon Memorial (sponsored by TriState Veterinary)

Filly: Unnamed (Blofeld—Adding Alpha, Owner: William Atkins
Colt: Unnamed (Blofeld—Dixieland Dudes), Owner: Carlisle Horse Company

WEST VIRGINIA YEARLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Grand Champion: My Max (Maximum Mischief—Brigintine Island), Owner: Beau Ridge Farm
Reserve Champion: Direct the Show (Redirect—Two Hundred Proof)

SAM HUFF MEMORIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Grand Champion: Weanling colt by Blofeld—Dixieland Dudes), Owner: Carlisle Horse Company
Reserve Champion: My Max (Maximum Mischief—Brigintine Island), Owner: Beau Ridge Farm

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- The West Virginia Breeders Classics pays out almost $1 million in purses for WV-bred and/or -sired horses. It is held annually on the second Saturday in October.
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- West Virginia offers year-round racing with approximately 300 race days per year.

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Chasing

Brought to you by the Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation

Steeplechase helping hurricane relief efforts

By Betsy Burke Parker

When Hurricane Helene blew across western North Carolina and southern Virginia farmland in late September, few realized the storm would have such a far reach. Almost three months later, some residents remain without power or roads, and farmers are recognizing the damage goes well beyond the devastated fall crops they lost to floods in the days that followed landfall.

Organizing a livestock feed delivery with Rachel Bates.

Everybody was affected, or knows someone who was. They all lost: cattle farmers, from the biggest cow-calf feeder operations to hardscrabble sustenance herds, and horsemen, from some of North Carolina's biggest name show and western trainers to backyard ponies for the grandkids. They lost their hay stores, they lost their hay crops. They lost bins of grain and stockpiled stacks of pellets and oats. Without feed for horses and other livestock as winter sets in, and no way to make it next growing season, farmers are feeling the worst pinch. Some farms lost barns, some lost fencing. Some lost both.

Some lost their homes.

Some lost their animals.

"People have no idea how bad it was down there. How bad it still is," says Remington, Virginia horsewoman Rachel Bates. Like the rest of America, Bates watched the news reports in the hours and days after the hurricane. She was horrified and moved to action.

"I'm definitely not the type of person that normally does this kind of thing, jump in my car and drive into a disaster area," Bates says.

Instead, she jumped in her truck.

Her first relief mission, Bates says she didn't really know what to do, what to take. She tried to imagine what she'd need if her animals were okay but if her barn and fences had been flattened by floodwater.

Bates stuffed her horse trailer with bales of hay and bags of feed, some donated, some from her own stable. She tossed in a few tools, some dog food, a gas can.

"I was so overloaded I blew a tire on I-81," Bates says, "but I got there." She was one of the first to arrive in southwest North Carolina with livestock supplies. She was directed to a fairgrounds where she offloaded and watched as exhausted volunteers and hollow-eyed hurricane victims filed through to pick up what she suddenly realized were meager supplies.

"Imagine how long one bag of feed, a few bales of hay would last you if you literally had nothing else."

Right then, right there, she vowed to do more.

"You almost couldn't believe what it is you were seeing. It's like a war zone.

"And it's still happening."

It was Bates that first linked the steeplechase community to hurricane relief. She's friends with Kelly Edens; Kelly's husband Cook Edens is a National Steeplechase Association senior steward. Kelly had helped Bates with that first charity drive at the Warrenton Tractor Supply, and she heard from Bates how bad it was.

"I was kinda thrust in as the fundraiser and go-between," Edens explains how he got involved. "I got on the phone and called Bill and Rosella at NSA. It just made sense to organize at a national level."

Edens says the first contacts were simple: Horsemen helping horsemen. "NSA jumped in with a $4,500 grant to get hay to horse

owners and farmers down there. Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation matched it.

The Virginia Equine Alliance donated, too.

"We started contacting area hay farmers and farm stores" to mobilize a stronger supply chain, Edens continues. Momentum built. "We were able to get some discounts, a lot of donations. Steeplechase sent out notices, and a lot of the hunts picked it up and started publicizing what was needed."

Convoys of small, privately owned trailers loaded with a few donated items began to be joined by commercial haulers, tractor trailers filled with literally tons of discount-purchased supplies – hay, horse feed and pet items, posts and wire, hammers and pocketknives.

"You wouldn't believe it if you saw it yourself," says Bates. "These people lost everything. My friend Paddy Downing-Nyegard (like Bates, a USEF "R" judge and lifelong hunter-jumper), lost some of her pets, her bridge, most of her fencing, most of her barns, tons of damage to her house. The farmers with all those gorgeous riverbottom hayfields, the cropland, the pastureland they'd have cattle on during the summer months. They lost it all. The livestock, the fence. Their cropland is under a sea of toxic, contaminated mud and debris. Not only did they lose this year's hay and corn crops, but it'll be years, if ever, they get that land back.

"Their tractors washed down river. Their pets drowned. Their cattle got swept away.

"It's like a war zone, and it's not over yet. We've got to help them get through the winter." Edens agrees that need remains high. "I wanted people to be aware they can donate money earmarked for this (hurricane) fund through the charitable Gwathmey Foundation. Your donations are tax deductible." (DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT: TGSteeplechaseFoundation.org/donate-now/)

Edens has actually seen hurricane devastation before, first-hand at ground zero. In 1972, he was 12 when Hurricane Agnes blew through central Virginia. He was on the family farm near Orange, sitting on a tractor watching the Rapidan River rise, waiting for his cue to help get the livestock out of harm's way.

"It took out our river pastures," Edens recalls. "The cows were going to drown if we weren't there to move them up. The river took out the U.S. 29 bridge into Charlottesville.

"Watching these videos of Helene brings it all back."

Then, as now, Edens says there's a real old school mentality – softer, kinder, more gentle. "Everybody's helping everybody."

"What happened there is biblical," Bates adds. "Coming from somebody who's not religious, there really are angels out there, helping these people just like you and me, with animals and horses and pets and livestock. They're farmers trying to get through it, and survive."

Bates' trailer, being loaded full of equine supplies to deliver to North Carolina.

Boots on the ground: Hurricane relief efforts with racing horsewoman Nikki Valvo

Middleburg trainer Nikki Valvo got in on Hurricane Helene relief efforts within a week of the September 26-27 storm.

"My husband drove a load of hay, equine emergency supplies, as well as tools, generators, fencing and baby supplies to a western North Carolina livestock yard that first weekend after the (storm)" in early October, Valvo says. "Our family had put stuff together in about two days so it was a bit random. His was the first horse supply load they had received.

"I realize most people think of humans and small animals when they think of helping after a storm, but the farming community was so deeply affected by this storm." It was just pre-harvest time, she adds, the worst possible timing for farmers trying to put up crops for the winter.

Once they started to publicize their collective relief efforts and circulate information about donation convoys, Valvo says supplies began flowing in.

"At first, I had a person donate 100 round bales, which led to contacting a hauler my husband uses for his company. The ball was rolling. I just needed donations (to pay for) the hauling.

"I tried emailing several of our local hunts, contacting people I knew who I thought could potentially chip in and so forth. I heard nothing but crickets. I was utterly dismayed.

"It struck me – what if I asked NSA to put out an email. That would take it national, not just local.

"I was thinking if everyone who read it made a small donation we could get this done.

"I called the NSA office to see if this was an off-the-wall request. (NSA racing director) Bill Gallo thought we could make something work.

"Two days later I received a call from Cook Edens, who informed me that the NSA had approved funds through the Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation," a non-profit arm of American steeplechase.

"WooooHooo," Valvo continues the narrative. "Then, my farrier (NSA steward Wayne Vansant) suggested I call Debbie Easter (Virginia Thoroughbred Association executive director) and get the Virginia Equine Alliance involved. VEA had a meeting and, voila, they matched TGSF funds.

"Hay is the biggest problem for the hurricane victims. The horses (and livestock) down there literally have no grass. The farmers some of them literally have no land or soil. It's pure devastation. How to rebuild a hay field after it's been raped of its nutrients and is now contaminated? Unfathomable.

"My hope is our ag colleges take this on as a research and redevelopment project. Everyone can learn from this and grow our knowledge agriculturally."

— Classifieds —

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— Looking Back —

50 years ago

■ For the first time since Kelso won five consecutive Horse of the Year awards (1960-64), a Maryland owner was honored at the Eclipse Awards with a divisional champion. Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Janney's homebred Ruffian was named best 2-year-old filly after winning all five of her 1974 starts. Trained by Marylander Frank Whiteley Jr., Ruffian was generally regarded as the best juvenile filly to appear on the American scene in 20 years.

■ The Maryland Racing Commission approved the use of phenylbutazone for racing purposes at Thoroughbred tracks in the state. It was stipulated that the drug must be administered by a licensed veterinarian, who in turn must file a report with the state veterinarian. There were no restrictions on the amount, dosage, or time of administration, and treated horses would not be listed for public notice.

■ University of Pennsylvania New Bolton Center veterinarian Dr. Alan Klide, then chief of anesthesiology, outlined his study of acupuncture, which was to be included as a treatment of equine afflictions at the hospital. He stated that recent experiments had convinced him there might be some merit to the technique: "We don't know where we're going and we don't know whether acupuncture will end up being useful to anybody for anything."

■ Maryland-based apprentice jockey Chris McCarron won 546 races in 1974, surpassing Sandy Hawley's record of 515 set the previous year.

Maryland-based apprentice Chris McCarron set the nation's win record in 1974. Among his victories was the Maryland Futurity on Bayard Sharp's North of the Law for trainer Charlie Peoples (right). John Merryman made the presentation.

McCarron recorded his first win at Bowie in February at age 18, and guided Ohmylove to victory 516 at Laurel Dec. 17, defeating his older brother Gregg by a nose.

■ S. Bryce Wing passed away at 84 at his home in Glyndon, Md. One of Maryland's strongest supporters of steeplechasing and foxhunting, he had been chairman of the Maryland Hunt Cup committee through the 1940s and 1950s. He was also a steward at Laurel, Pimlico and Bowie for more than a decade.

25 years ago

■ Joe Clancy reported on the retirement of "arguably the best steeplechaser in history," Pennsylvania-based Lonesome Glory. Wrapping up what would be his fifth Eclipse Award-winning campaign, Kay Jeffords' champion suffered a torn tendon five days before the Colonial Cup in November. Trainer Bruce Miller made the announcement, indicating that upon recovery Lonesome Glory's new job would be as a foxhunter. He retired at age 11 with 19 wins from 35 starts jump starts and earnings of $1,318,868.

■ Fueled by the Mea Culpa Stables dispersal, records tumbled at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's December mixed sale. A weanling colt by Boston Harbor out of Kentucky Derby/Preakness winner Silver Charm's full-sister Dollar Poker (by Silver Buck) sold for $240,000, the highest price paid at a Timonium mixed sale. The previous record was set in 1967 by the broodmare Berlo, who sold for $235,000 as part of the William duPont Jr. dispersal.

■ For the first time the annual stallion season benefit auction at Herb and Ellen Moelis' CandyLand Farm in Middletown, Del., expanded its reach, thanks to a satellite link between the auction site and Lexington, Ky.

The first event, in 1991 at the Moelis home, raised $15,000 for Thoroughbred Charities of America from 20 attendees. The 1999 event drew 375 attendees and raised $400,000.

The TCA has provided more than $27 million in grants to more than 200 Thoroughbred-related organizations.

■ Baltimore journalist Tom Keyser won his third Eclipse Award in four years for "Miracle Mile," a story on Maryland-based trainer Michael Dickinson and two-time Breeders' Cup Mile-G1 winner Da Hoss in the *Breeders' Cup 1999 Championship* souvenir magazine. Keyser joined Bill Nack, Edwin Pope and Maryjean Wall as the only three-time winners. His other winning articles appeared in the *Baltimore Sun*.

■ *Sports Illustrated* included the 1938 Seabiscuit/War Admiral Pimlico Special in its "I Wish I'd Been There" compendium of the 20th century's "most intriguing sports events." Nack wrote about the Baltimore spectacle: "Thirty-five miles south, Franklin Roosevelt delayed a press conference so he could tune in on the radio to [announcer Clem] McCarthy's raspy voice, which crackled with excitement as he growled the horses' names into the mike: *And now, War Admiral and Seabiscuit are on the track. . .*"

10 years ago

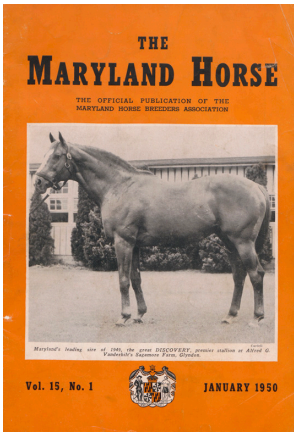
■ Ben's Cat was voted the season's top regional-bred horse by members of the media in *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*/The Racing Biz Top Midlantic-bred Poll of 2014. King Leatherbury's homebred gelding won four times, all stakes, including a third consecutive Fabulous Strike Handicap at Penn National during his 8-year-old season to boost his lifetime win total to 28 and push his career earnings to $2.3 million.

■ Down Town Allen became the fifth West Virginia-bred, and first state-bred distaffer, to surpass $1 million in earnings. Trainer John Casey's 7-year-old homebred extended her winning streak to eight in Charles Town's $50,000 My Sister Pearl Stakes, which pushed her over the mark.

That would be the final race the daughter of Windsor Castle would finish. Sent off at 2-5 in her 2015 debut, she was pulled up and when treatments for a torn suspensory failed to work, she was euthanized nearly a month later.

■ Eighttofasttocatch retired a millionaire after he captured a fourth consecutive Jennings Handicap at Laurel Park. Trained by Tim Keefe for owner Sylvia Heft, the 8-year-old Maryland-bred son of Not For Love led at every call in all four runnings, winning the last by 10¾ lengths. "He's done everything anybody's asked him, he gave us our first million-dollar earner, he taught a bunch of us . . ." said Keefe. "He doesn't owe anybody anything."

■ In front from the start, Pennsylvania-bred Divine Fortune – the defending Eclipse Award champion steeplechaser piloted by Darren Nagle – took the $100,000 Colonial Cup by 9 lengths over likely 2014 champion Demonstrative for co-owners Jonathan Sheppard and Bill Pape. A winner of two of five 2014 starts, all Grade 1s, the 11-year-old amassed $195,000.



75 years ago

■ Sagamore Farm's "great chestnut Discovery" was Maryland's leading sire of 1949. The son of Display stood ninth in the country with the winners of 135 races and $433,000 to his credit, according to the *Daily Racing Form*. He was also America's only living sire in 1949 to appear on the top 20 general and broodmare sires lists. At age 19, Discovery was booked full for the 1950 season.

The stallion was also part of a "Maryland Horse Quiz" compiled by Pat Judge. Question: Discovery's best stakes winner of 1949 was: Conniver, Foreign Affair, Newsbeat or Loser Weeper. Answer? Loser Weeper.

■ Writer Joe Palmer reflected on the retirement of Hirsch Jacobs' Stymie.

"I think I shall remember a flaming chestnut horse with a copper mane and a brave high head, standing motionless on the finish line at Jamaica before a roaring stand. This was Stymie, leaving the races forever. I do not think Stymie was quite a great horse, in the sense that Man o' War and Count Fleet and Citation were, but he was the most colorful racer of his generation. . ."

Foaled in Texas in 1941, Hall of Famer Stymie never set foot on owner/trainer Jacobs' Stymie Manor in Monkton, Md., but Jacobs referred to his farm as the one "Stymie bought." Claimed by Jacobs for $1,500 early in his career, Stymie raced 131 times, recorded 35 wins, 33 seconds, 28 thirds, and retired with a world record $918,485 (nearly $13 million today). He started 28 times as a 2-year-old, 29 times at 3, and was the nation's champion handicap horse at 4.

■ Springdale Race Course in Camden, S.C., was popular with wintering trainers. Among the "regulars" was James E. Ryan, whose stable included horses owned by Mrs. E. duPont Weir and Rokeby Stable. Sidney Watters Jr., training for Richard Mellon, took advantage of the brush and timber schooling facilities, as did John Bosley Jr., Tom Waller and Ray Wolfe, the latter training for Marion duPont Scott. Harry Kirkover plotted the location of the training courses and designed "the unusually comfortable and attractive stabling facilities, miles of exercise paths through the woods and jumps of every description imaginable."

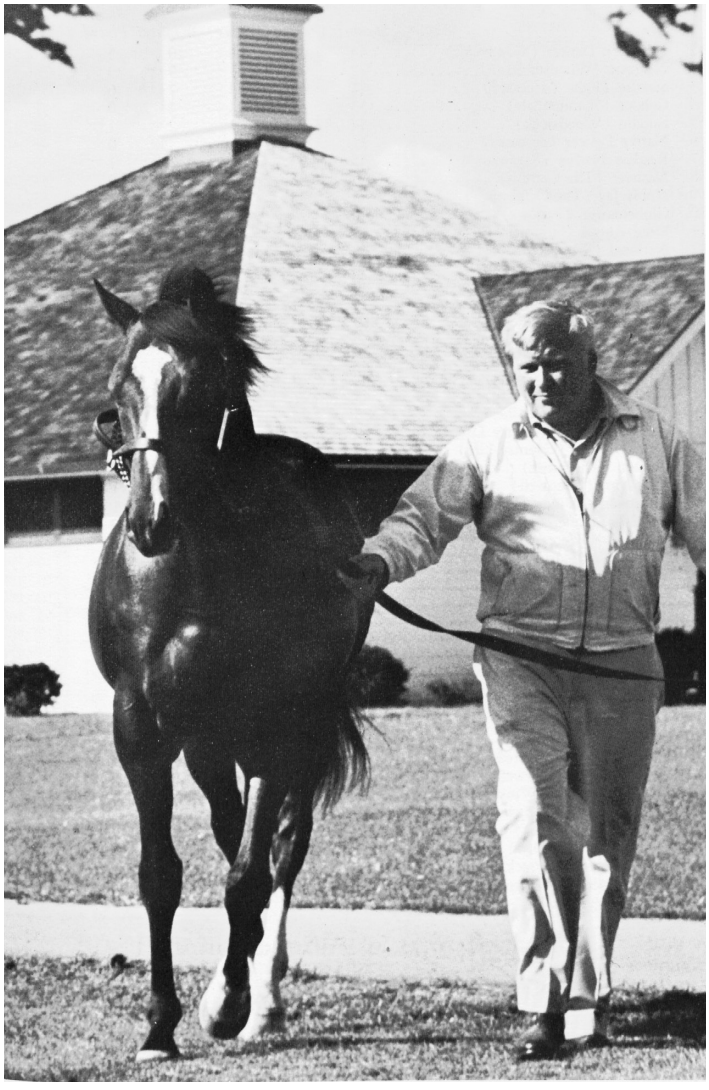
Now owned by the state, Springdale is still in use today as a training center and home to the Carolina Cup and Colonial Cup steeplechase meets.

■ Alfred G. Vanderbilt's stable, seventh in the nation in 1949 in earnings, made Hialeah its new winter home. Racing in Florida for the first time, as opposed to the usual California, trainer William C. Winfrey stated: "I plan to try him [Loser Weeper] on the turf down here this winter. He has never run on the turf, but I have a hunch that he will do all right on it. He's a great horse to train, has a good disposition and he has been doing everything we've asked of him."

Loser Weeper was never a factor in three turf attempts that winter.

■ Grayson Foundation secretary Edward L. Kilroe presented a report at the Thoroughbred Racing Associations' annual convention on the continuing research of horse diseases being carried out by various universities and colleges, made possible through grants from the Foundation. Studies covered Equine Infectious Anemia (swamp fever), virus abortion, Rh factor in jaundiced foals, and periodic ophthalmia (moon blindness).

The Foundation, named for Virginia horseman Admiral Cary Grayson (personal physician to President Woodrow Wilson among other achievements), is now known as the Grayson-Jockey Club Foundation. The organization has provided more than $42.3 million to underwrite more than 437 projects at 48 universities in North America and overseas.



Northern Dancer

Northern Dancer takes a walk with Marty Gunby at Maryland's Windfields Farm in 1971, when the stallion topped the nation's sires list. He was the state's first national leader since *Challenger II in 1939.

Peter Winants was on staff at *The Maryland Horse* during the 1960s, writing and taking photographs for the magazine before heading to Virginia where he headed up *The Chronicle of the Horse* magazine and later the National Sporting Library. Before his death in 2009, he gifted his prints on file at the MHBA, which have become part of the Maryland Horse Library as The Winants Collection.

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$5,000 LF

GOLDEN LAD

Medaglia d'Oro - Broadway Gold, by Seeking the Gold

Top 3 Maryland sire of 2024; sire 2024 Maryland Juvenile Filly S. winner CAPRICE; GSW/track-record setting son of prominent sire MEDAGLIA d'ORO

$4,500 LF

ENGAGE

Into Mischief - Nefertiti, by Speightstown

GSW at 2 and multiple GSW lifetime of $800,000+; son of perennial leading sire INTO MISCHIEF; first crop yearlings sold up to $115,000; first crop race in 2025

$5,000 LF

GREAT NOTION

Elusive Quality - Evening Primrose, by Dayjur

Maryland's #1 Sire 7 years running; Mid-Atlantic's #1 Leading Sire in 2024 by earnings, SWrs (with GSWrs at Saratoga, Keeneland, and Aqueduct), and SHrs

BOOKED FULL

GALAWI (IRE)

Dubawi (IRE) - Galikova (FR), by Galileo (IRE)

By Europe's leading sire DUBAWI who has 8 sons who have sired G1SWs; out of G1SW 1/2-sister to Champion GOLDIKOVA; first crop race in 2025

$2,000 LF

UNCLE LINO

Uncle Mo - Haysee, by Orientate

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Linda Bench: 410.885.2855, lbench@northviewstallions.com
Paul O'Loughlin: 443.566.2996 (cell), paul@northviewstallions.com
55 Northern Dancer Drive, Chesapeake City, MD 21915

BREEDERS: If you're buying mares, Virginia is the place to send them. With no breed-back rule, there is no better state-bred program.

After purchase, get them to **VIRGINIA** in 15 days. **Foal out here in 2025** and your VA-bred is eligible to earn you breeder bonuses for **1st thru 3rd finishes IN ANY OPEN RACE IN NORTH AMERICA***

2023 Bonuses were paid out at 34% of earned purses

**State-bred and state-sired races excluded except at Colonial Downs and NSA-sanctioned meets in VA*

See VaBred.org for program details or contact the Virginia Thoroughbred Association at 434-977-3716